

## ARNOT HILL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006 – 2026 (Revised Edition)



Community Group Members from all 'Green Flag Sites', Parks Staff and Elected Members (2022)



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are delighted to be able to publish this Management Plan for Arnot Hill Park. Gedling Borough Council's management and maintenance teams at Arnot Hill Park and the Friends of Arnot Hill Park recognise the Green Flag Award Scheme as an excellent way to generate interest and raise the profile of parks and green spaces.

Generations of people have enjoyed trips to the park as a large open space close to Arnold town centre that offers peace and tranquillity. It offers a variety of pursuits such as walking, children's play facilities, meeting friends, attending the annual Arnold Carnival and other events, enjoying and learning about nature, feeding the birds, discovering local history and playing sport to name just a few. The pursuit of such leisure activities indicates that the park is 'Highly Valued', by locals and visitors alike.

Over the last few years Gedling Borough Council in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund has invested approximately one million pounds in developing and restoring the park to make it more attractive, safer and more accessible to local people. These improvements have enabled us to retain the 'Green Flag', award for the park for over a decade.

We want our communities to feel proud of their local park, and this management plan sets out how we hope to achieve this. By improving the quality and diversity of the landscape and the facilities on offer within the park we will ensure that it can be enjoyed by all of the communities living in the Borough. This desire is reflected in our vision statement.

**Our Vision - 'To develop and sustain the substantial heritage and history of the park as well as the recreational and educational qualities of the site confirming its reputation as a 'Flagship Park' within the Borough'**

This management plan is deliberately designed as a working tool to assist staff, contractors, stakeholders and the park's 'Friends' group to articulate and share their vision, understand their roles and responsibilities and plan for the future of Arnot Hill Park.

Ultimately, open space belongs to all of us and we believe that our residents can look forward with confidence to a positive future for the borough's premier park. We are extremely proud of what has been achieved to date and are committed to improving the park year on year.



**Councillor Ron McCrossen - Portfolio Holder for Environment**



### **Arnot Hill Park Green Flag Celebration – 2016**

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**Arnot Hill Park Lake and Kiosk**



## PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Rotary Club of Mapperley and Arnold



**WOODLAND**  
TRUST



Eagle's Nest Church



Derbyshire  
Leicestershire  
Nottinghamshire  
& Rutland  
Community Rehabilitation Company



**McDonald's®**

## DIRECTIONS

### Coming To Arnot Hill Park from the M1

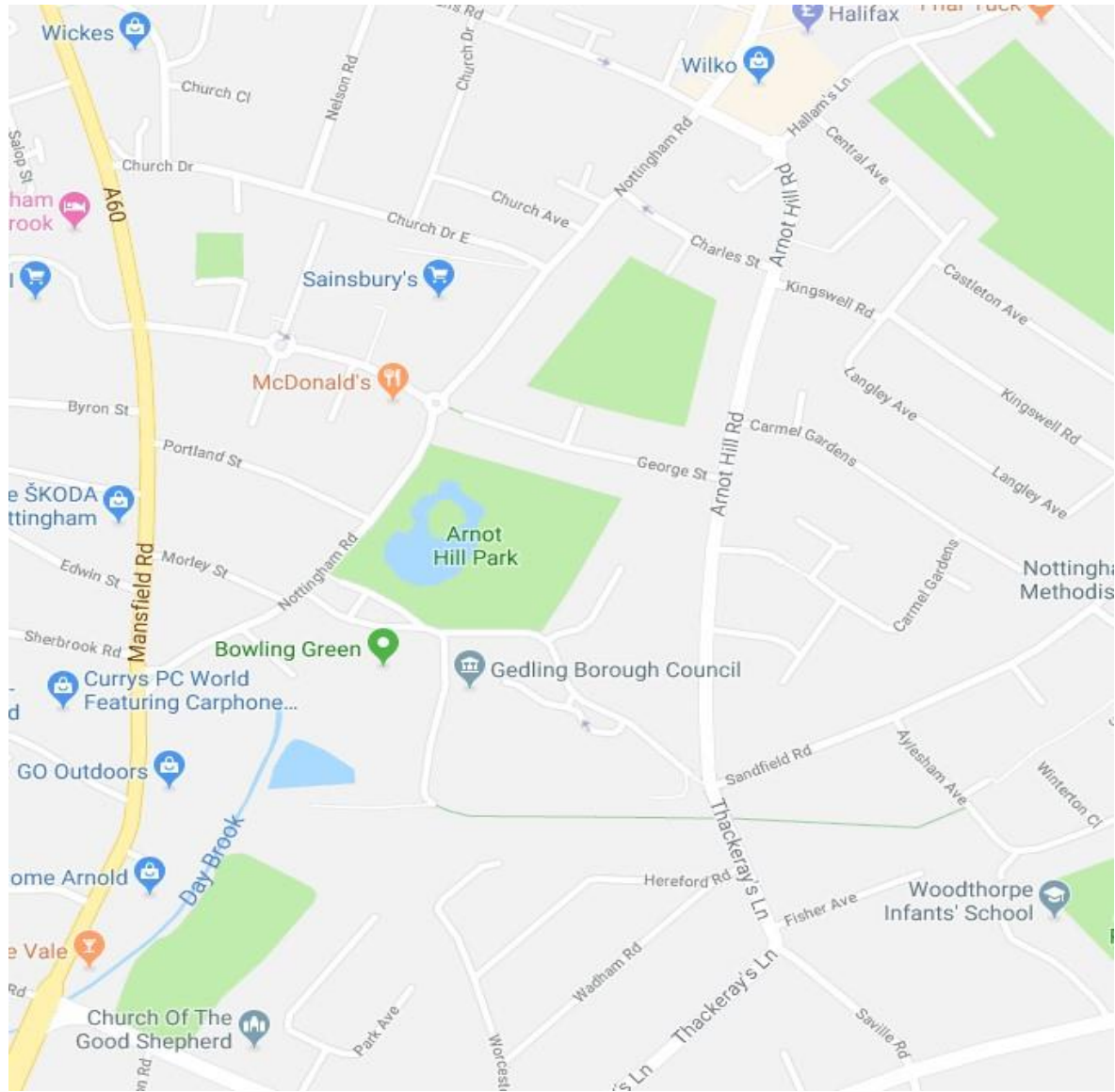
- Junction 26 (A610). Leave Motorway (signposted Nottingham) and at roundabout take 1st exit A610
- Junction with A6002/B600. At roundabout take 3rd exit if entering from the South, and the first exit if entering from the North.
- Junction with B6008. At roundabout forward (signposted City Centre)
- Junction with A6514. At traffic signals turn left A6514 (not shown) into Nottingham Ring Road (signposted Ring Road, Mansfield A60)
- Junction with A611. At roundabout take 2nd exit In 0.4 mile at roundabout take 2nd exit
- "The Vale" public house (Junction with A60). At the set of traffic signals turn left. Then straight on until you reach the third set of traffic lights. Turn right into Nottingham Road. Gedling Borough Council is your second turning on your right.

### Coming To Arnot Hill Park the A1 (North)

- Junction with A1/A614. At roundabout take 3rd exit A1 (Signposted A614. Continue for 9 miles)
- A614 Ollerton (Junction with A614/A6075). At roundabout take 2nd exit A614 (signposted Nottingham)
- A614 Junction with A617. At roundabout take 2nd exit
- A614 "White Post Inn". At roundabout take 2nd exit
- A614 Junction with A6097. Bear right then left
- A60 Junction with A60. At roundabout take 1st exit A60
- A60. "The Old Spot" Pub. At this set of lights, turn left. Continue on over the mini roundabout
- Junction with Nottingham Road. Turn right at the mini roundabout and Gedling Borough Council is on the left







Google Map of Arnot Hill Park and surrounding area.



LAYOUT PLAN OF ARNOT HILL PARK

## VISION STATEMENT

‘To develop and sustain the substantial heritage and history of the park as well as the recreational and educational qualities of the site confirming its reputation as a ‘flagship park’ within the Borough.



**‘Queens Jubilee 2022**

**Picnic in the Park**

## **ARNOT HILL PARK – A COMMUNITY ASSET**

Arnot Hill Park is a significant public asset offering a range of leisure opportunities to the community as a whole. Over the past few years Gedling Borough Council in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund has invested approximately one million pounds in developing and restoring the park.

This document is a projection of how the park will be managed and maintained over the next 5 years. In common with most management plans, it sets out the details in a five year detailed cycle over that period. It outlines the periodic operations and actions, which will ensure sustainability of the site's fabric and continuous development of its assets.

The plan will be reviewed at regular intervals to keep within the detail of a five-year cycle, to ensure that the Council's aims and objectives are fulfilled while meeting our community's needs and expectations.

“We are extremely proud of what has been achieved to date, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are committed to improving this amenity, year on year, for the benefit of the Gedling community. Our immediate priority is to maintain the profile of the park, by retaining Green Flag status for the site in 2023/24”.

**Councillor Ron McCrossen**

**Portfolio Holder for Environment**



**The refurbished Lake supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund**



**Arnot Hill House**

## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **Introduction**

The Management Plan for Arnot Hill Park was first written in 2001, to aid an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and to provide structure for the future development, maintenance and management of Arnot Hill Park. The current management plan 2006 to 2026 has been revised with clear objectives, to address feedback from the green flag award judges (Appendix 2A – Judges Feedback for Arnot Hill Park 2021).

Additionally, comments from the 'Friends Of' Arnot Hill Park, Park User Survey Data, observations from the Parks Development Officer and the views of the Park Rangers are taken into account. The document has been turned into a more comprehensible paper for the public to read and will be made available along with the 'Action Plan' in pdf format on Gedling Borough Council's website. A hard copy of the Management Plan is also available by request from the parks department.

The plan addresses both successes in the park and issues arising, whilst fulfilling the authority's aims. The document shows the potential of the 'Friends Of' group and the park as an educational resource, with use as an outdoor classroom for local primary schools and other groups, taking interest in the parks fauna and flora and its industrial heritage and also as a venue for events.

The Friends of, local schools and volunteers have become paramount to the future development of the park. The groups work closely with the Park Rangers and the Parks Development Officer; together they continue to be a catalyst for the creative development of the park, bringing organised activities, enjoyment and education to all visitors.

The Management Plan is not a standalone document and should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies and documentation. The plan does however bring together a wide range of issues and

information in one document and where relevant highlights links to other more detailed documents/policies.

### **Background**

The site dates from the late medieval period in the late 18th century the land was owned by Mrs Sherbrooke of Oxtou followed by her heir W. Coape Sherbrooke later to become Arnot Hill Park. At the time the Day brook fed the water on site, which was also the source for the successive industrial development on the adjacent land. The Sherbrooke parkland was later developed with planting schemes and a house built on site in c1792 by John Hawksley, Worsted Manufacturer Mill owner.

The estates landscape continued to be developed inspired by leading designers of the times until the late 19th century leaving the legacy now known as Arnot Hill Park.

Arnold Urban District Council purchased the park in 1914 although the opening to the public was initially delayed due to the advent of World War I. During this time Arnot Hill House was used as a convalescent home by the Red Cross Society.

The parkland eventually became available for public recreation in 1919 and a room in the house established as a Child Welfare and Maternity Clinic, this marked the beginning of local authority use. Since becoming a public park, a small Rockwork Arch feature is known to have been installed in the 1930's branded in its heyday as the 'Wishing Arch' by local children who would cross their fingers and make a wish as they passed through the arch. Between then and 1950 a Rose garden, sports pavilion, a wide variety of trees and shrubs and a wooden bandstand installed for the 1937 coronation celebrations, further enhanced the park.

The bandstand was demolished in the 1970s and the park also saw the development of a glasshouse, sheds, garages and even a temporary office complex to the south of the old walled gardens.

With local government reorganisation in 1974, Gedling Borough Council replaced Arnold Urban District Council. This new Council signalled the building of new Council offices to the south-western edge of the park, a play area, a rose garden and an aviary, the Tennis courts became car parking and roads were altered to become a one-way system during the refurbishment in 2001.

The Council applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant aid and was awarded 75% of the one million pound cost of the project. The Authority showed its commitment from the beginning by allocating 25% of the budget required.

The reinstatement and new features included considerable work to the lakeside and the lake itself, new railings, new play equipment, new paths, lighting in the period style, new planting to increase diversity for wildlife and space for performing events and general recreation.

Presently the refurbishment of the park has been completed, providing a sound basis on which to develop up to date recreational facilities and services, fit for the 21st century.

### **Motivation**

Previous management of the park focused on and was guided by the grounds maintenance specification. New development, if any was ad hoc and motivated by the needs of the annual events. The parks popularity was almost its downfall, requiring substantial investment to restore the site to reflect its history and heritage value.

Having successfully secured the funding required from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the physical restoration and new facilities, it was essential that the future maintenance and development of the facilities and services be formally planned. Further motivation is the Council's commitment to achieve the Green

Flag Award, year on year as this demonstrates to the local community and local Councillors ongoing improvements to the site.

This plan encompasses all the criteria of a comprehensive management plan, advised by the Green Flag consortium which, is licensed to Keep Britain Tidy by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) who own the Green Flag Award Scheme.

Gedling Borough Council is committed to raising and maintaining its standards within all of its parks and green spaces now and into the future. Please See Appendix 2A - 'Green Flag' Judging Feedback and actions addressed/considered.

### **Review and Monitoring**

Monitoring the action plan will highlight where the successes and failures have occurred, how changes can be made and built upon; or mitigate as the case may be. The results leave space for flexibility when necessary, to fit any circumstances of change.

Reviewing and monitoring of all management practices and other circumstances impacting on the site will occur at least annually, the timing to tie in with the Council's annual budget review exercise.

Throughout the year in the course of planned meetings, senior officers, operative colleagues, Friends of, volunteers, outside agencies and partners will be kept informed by the Parks Development Officer of progress towards achieving our objectives. The results of the marketing plan should indicate, e.g. gaps in community participation and in any case greatly assist in decision making.



## **Official Opening of the Nature Trail by**

### **Councillor Mr. Melvyn Shepherd**

The Friends of Arnot Hill Park are and have been a key resource in developing and managing the park. The aspirations of the group and the individuals who have formed the committee have helped shape Arnot Hill Park in recent years, but new members are always being actively sought.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 had restricted the group meeting and whilst still a small group meetings will now become more regular. Friends Of members and other members of the public continue to converse with ourselves throughout the year and offer their constructive opinions on the park through many platforms including social media.

It is hoped that when the group can once again meet in the near future, discussions about an outdoor gym for teenagers may be once again be rekindled and consultation with the public completed. All of the Friends Of group recognise that some additional teenage equipment is needed on the park, but further consultation is required to provide the right facilities for the teenagers who use the park.



## SITE DESCRIPTION

Name and Location

### **Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6LU**

The park is located near to the town centre of Arnold three miles to the north of Nottingham City centre. The park is 8 ha in size and incorporates the main Civic offices for the Borough some of which are housed in the Civic Centre built in the 1970's. The management of these properties is largely outside the scope of this management plan. The park is bounded by George Street to the north, Nottingham Road to the west, Arnot Hill Road to the east and the Council offices and depot and cycle track to the south.

Ownership: Gedling Borough Council, Civic Centre, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold

Nottingham NG5 6LU

Grid reference: 458135:344786

### **Site History, Heritage and Features**

A detailed historic landscape appraisal was undertaken by Parklands Consortium Ltd in 2001 and used as the basis to submit a Heritage Lottery Grant Application to enable restoration works to the park to be undertaken. The appraisal identified the following events as key in the development of the park: -

**Late Medieval to c. 1791** - The Manor of Arnold was situated on the edge of Sherwood Forest and Arnot Vale or Arnot Hill. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Mrs Sherbrooke of Oxtou was Lady of the Manor and it was her heir, W Coape Sherbrooke, who owned the land that was later to become Arnot Hill Park. The Daybrook ran through this part of Arnold and the area was already known for its springs and watercourses.

**Industrial Legacy** - In 1791/2 Robert Davison and John Hawksley, came to the Arnot Hill and Beck Meadow area of Arnold and built a worsted mill utilising the water of the Daybrook

and created a millpond. The mill was five storeys high and employed 1,000 people. It appears that John Hawksley also bought enough land to build a gentleman's residence for himself on the rising ground to the north of the mill and east of the mill pond and to lay out the grounds as a small estate. This villa had the advantage of overlooking the millpond with views across the vale beyond. Hawksley also planted trees and laid out gardens and hothouses as befitted a gentleman.

A rail line, which carried passenger traffic as well as coal, and was part of the GNR Derbyshire extension, ran through the park land until 'Beeching' closed it. Trains ran all the way to the London Road and Victoria stations, and up into Derbyshire the other way.

Also an extension of the Nottingham Suburban Railway which opened December 2, 1889, the first public train passing over its rails leaving Nottingham London Road Station, on a three-and-a half miles long journey, with more than 1,000 yards of it was encased in tunnels to Daybrook Station. The line was intended to provide commuter transport for the growing suburbs. The line finally shut in 1951.

**Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Changes** - Changes were made to the estate in the early 1830s and a simple rectangular lake became the focus of the park. The 1842 Arnold Tithe Map shows Arnot Hill Park then owned and occupied by John Simpson which includes: Nottingham Road Lodge and garden, rectangular lake with island, plantations, lawn, house, pleasure grounds, gardens, hot houses, yards, carriage house and stables.

**A New Owner for Arnot Hill** - When John Scott Wells, a hosier, purchased Arnot Hill in c.1868/9 he is reputed to have altered the house. The OS map surveyed in 1977-78, however, shows the house on an axis north-east to south-west, probably much as in the earlier phases, with a sunken terrace lawn to the north-west leading to a rectangular fish

pond which encloses two large wooded islands with a boat house on the southern corner. The embankment around the north, west and south of the fishpond was planted with trees that would have reflected in the water but not have hidden the distant views. There was a footbridge over the weir, a small pool and parkland with scattered deciduous and coniferous trees and curving drives from lodges to south east and west. To the south of the house were a large walled garden with glasshouses and a coach house alongside on the western side of the wall and a lodge flanking the entrance from Hallam's Lane.

**Late Victorian Changes** - In 1881 Charles Grey Hill Esquire, a frilling manufacturer bought the Arnot Hill Estate. He is said to have rebuilt the house and greatly improved the grounds and lived in some style with his French wife and eight servants. He is recorded keeping black swans on the lake and grew exotic plants in his hothouses. Surviving plans for the rebuilding of the Nottingham Road Lodge and the carriage house, sheds and stables, indicate his ideas for the estate.

The 1899 OS map shows the extent of Hill's work at Arnot Hill including the rebuilt lodge, stables, cottages etc. There is a boathouse to the north of the fishpond, which is undulating and encloses three islands; one larger to the north and two small islands to the south.

A new pleasure circuit was created over the parkland and round the fish pond with coniferous planting, introduced to give interest to the walks and drives within the estate. This layout shows Arnot Hill Park at its most spectacular and indicates Hill was interested in having a fashionable estate, even though modest in size. It is possible the ideas of the designers such as Edward Kemp and Edward Milner may have influenced the way he embellished the park.

**The Public Park for Arnold** - In 1914 Arnold UDC decided to purchase Arnot Hill House and grounds. However the First World War intervened and the Red Cross Society began to use Arnot Hill House as a convalescent

home for war wounded and plans to open the park to the public were deferred.

In 1919 when the Red Cross vacated Arnot Hill House the Park was opened with the first of many bands playing in the park and a free tea for the children. A room in Arnot Hill House was opened as a Child Welfare and Maternity Centre, the beginning of local authority use for the house. Permits were given for fishing in the lake and in 1920 there was tennis and bowls in the park. After the First World War efforts were channelled into raising funds for the War Memorial, which was unveiled on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 1922. In the following year a Sports Pavilion was built, a Rose Garden and Rockworks were developed in the mid-1930s. Bands frequently played in the park and a wooden bandstand made for the 1937 Coronation seems to have remained until the 1970s.

In 1950 the Arnold Official Guide describes the park: "This comprises 13 acres of lawns, shrubberies, plantations and walks. An ornamental lake of 1½ acres with three islands is fed by streams from the surrounding hills, with an outlet over miniature waterfalls. The Rose Gardens are an enclosed area with creeper covered walls on three sides; there are rose beds in formal design in the centre, containing 5000 rose trees surrounded by flowerbeds. A feature of the park is its wonderful variety of trees and shrubs most of them seventy to eighty years old. The view from the Council Offices of terraced lawns leading down to the lake is very pleasing."

**Changing Circumstances** - Further developments occurred and a greenhouse complex with sheds, garages and temporary offices, was constructed to the south of the old walled gardens. Small changes continued until the 1970s when, with local government re-organisation, the Arnold Urban District Council disappeared to be replaced by Gedling Borough Council. This initiated significant changes with the construction of a new council office complex in the south western edge of the park. Most of the building is in the Daybrook section of land rather than the original park. A playground was constructed near the lake with

a number of play equipment structures and a surrounding metal fence.

The vehicle entrance to the park has been changed from the gated opening next to the lodge to the west of the site. The roads inside the site were altered to provide a one-way system and the tennis courts near the Nottingham Road lodge were converted into car parking. In the southeast corner of the rose garden a large aviary was constructed to house tropical birds. This facility was unfortunately, closed in late 2014 and the building now potentially, designated to be used for civil wedding ceremonies in the near future.

In early 2009 the old bowls pavilion was demolished and a newly built modern pavilion was constructed adjacent to the bowling green.



This facility is now home to Arnold Park Bowls Club throughout the summer months, as well as being utilised by the Rangers for school holiday activities, events and school and community group.

Other outside community groups, partner organisations and small business like Arnbrook Children's Centre now lease the building and assist in generating some income.

**Restoration Programme** - A successful Heritage Lottery Grant Application in 2001 enabled major restoration works to be undertaken and acted as a catalyst to further works.

These works included: -

- Improvements to the lake environment.
- Improvements to roadways and footpaths, including the segregation of vehicular and pedestrian networks.
- Increased park planting.
- Provision of a lakeside kiosk and toilets.
- Provision of a performance area.
- Provision of a skate park.
- Improvements to the Rose Garden
- Provision of a Sensory/Twinning Garden
- Refurbishment of play area (Under 12's)
- Restoration of Nottingham Road Lodge and gated entrance.
- Restoration of park walls.
- Improvements to park lighting.
- Provision of CCTV.
- Improved park furniture and signage.
- Provision of a Ball Court.
- Extra Car Parking.
- Fencing preventing vehicular access to park areas.



**New Arnot Hill Park Play Area  
June 2018**

## **Environmental and Ecological Status**

The Council established the park as a recreational facility for the people of Arnold. Since its opening in 1919 it continues to be a focal point for the local community as it has been since the house was built in 1792.

The site has no noted status environmentally or ecologically, but the variety and maturity of the tree species make the park a special place. Many of the trees are somewhere between 100 and 150 years old and the number of tree species is in the region of ninety.

It does however have historical value in history with Arnot Hill House being a Grade 2 listed building (buildings of special interest which warrant every effort to preserve them). The house significantly, was the birth place of Mr Thomas Hawksley and a home to many other local businessmen. Additionally, the house was once used by the Red Cross within the First World War was a convalescent home for injured soldiers returning home from the trenches.

Currently, the house is home to the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Metropolitan Connect, We R Here, Rural Community Action Nottingham and Eagle Nest Charity Hub.

Other offices are now being rented by Nottinghamshire Registrars for civil weddings.

# WELCOMING PLACE



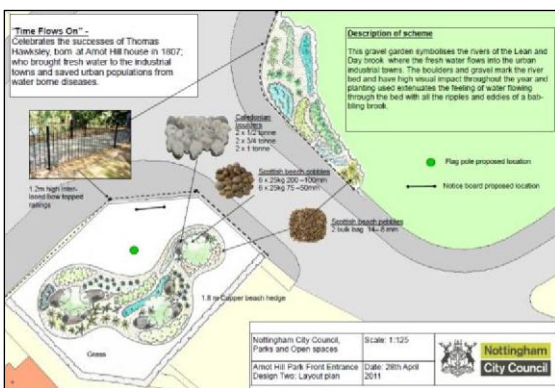
## A WELCOMING PLACE

### Aims and Objectives

#### Aims:

We receive many thousands of visitors to the park each year some visits are for recreation whilst others are to access the council's services at the Civic Centre, for this reason it is of paramount importance to give a generally good first impression for all members of the local community and the wider community. From the approach and arrival at the park it is the council's aim to promote a positive and appealing green space, regardless of purpose for the visit.

During 2012/13 the front entrance underwent a much needed upgrade, following the demolition of the Old Pavilion. The right hand side of the entrance has been opened up to provide a welcoming first impression of the park for its visitors and is interpreted with a lectern. Our prized 'Green Flag' is now right at the front of the park.



### Front Entrance Design

#### Objectives

- Good, clean and safe access for all.
- Maintain all accesses, car parks, pathways and fencing in good order mindful of DDA and visitors/staff safety
- Clear signage, both internally and externally.

## Achieving the objectives

**Access** - Public transport is adjacent to all entrances to the site there is parking within the park with designated bays. Access to the park is unrestricted and can be made from any of the four gates around its perimeter. All of the paths are suitable for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

Requirements for disabled users must be considered and as such, all disabled people have the rights to the avoidance of discrimination, 'Rights of Access - Goods, Facilities, Services and Premises'; this covers public services and providers of products. Since the 2 December 1996, it has been unlawful for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably for a reason related to their disability.

As a consequence, commencing 1st October 1999 service providers have had to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide their services; Inclusive design techniques are featured in the Park, as it is recognised nationally that disabled people are currently underrepresented as park users. In line with Disability Discrimination Act 1996 (DDA), it is Gedling Boroughs aim to promote accessibility to all. Nottinghamshire Greenwood Community Forest carried out a Disability Access Audit during 2012, the findings of which essentially recommended the provision of an updated leaflet for the park providing information regarding access, public transport routes, disability parking availability and level gradients.

Following a successful funding application to the NCC Local Improvement Scheme by the 'Friends Of' group much of these recommendations were finalised in the spring of 2015. This funding helped to provide three new and revised leaflets for the park (AHP General Parks Leaflet, 'Tree and Arts Trail Leaflets) and 'You are Here' Information Lecterns.

Working with NCC Graphics Department all the parks physical reading material has now been reviewed and fresh new artwork

produced to aid those with sight impairment. This has included redesigning the map of the park to produce a more appealing and informative presentation of Arnot Hill Park for all visitors.

Additionally some minor physical alterations to the park were made to address access issues (gate widened to be DDA Compliant Etc.) and new signage added to both welcome and guide visitors around the park. To further compliment this work new DDA compliant play equipment has been installed during the refurbishment of the play area in 2018. This very much reflects the wishes of park users when consulted on the play areas renewal.

In addressing these recommendations the Parks Department have been working closely with our Communications Department to improve the visual content of our web pages for the benefit of all visitors and now display all the new leaflets on the website.

### Use of Signage –

There are very few directional signs on the main roads, which direct visitors to the park. The Parks Department has for some time tried to negotiate with Nottinghamshire County Council to obtain permission to erect “Brown Tourist Signs”. They however, feel the park does not represent a significant tourist destination therefore we were not granted permission.

There are three events boards positioned in the town centre of Arnold, which inform the public of forthcoming events in the park and across the Borough.

GBC specify the design of all operational information and interpretative boards to be inclusive and in plain English, which are positioned at all accesses.

To give directional information to visitors within the park fingerposts have been installed and four new low level lecterns incorporated around the park to guide all visitors to the key features of the park.

### Parks Interpretation Panels

Interpretation Boards have also been added around the Lake, Front Entrance, Meadow Area and the Nature Trail and are now an acceptable part of Arnot Hill Park ‘Design Vision’. These provide an educational insight into the Flora, Fauna and Historical Value of the park.

During 2020, three new Interpretation Panels have now been installed to reflect the history of Arnot Hill House, the importance of Mr Thomas Hawksley (Renowned Water Engineer born in Arnot Hill House) and a ‘Twinning’ lectern encompassing all of the European towns which Gedling Borough and Gedling are twinned with.

**Welcome to Gedling Borough Council's Twinning and Sensory Garden**

This garden is dedicated to our twinning associates. Gedling Borough Council is currently twinned with three European towns – Rosenburg an der Fuлда, Vandoeuvre les Nancy and Messolonghi.

**Rosenburg an der Fuлда, Germany**  
A town in Saxony, Germany, twinned with Gedling in 1977. The original twinning was initiated by the German town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1977. The original twinning was initiated by the German town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1977. The original twinning was initiated by the German town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1977.

**Vandoeuvre les Nancy, France**  
A town in North Eastern France, twinned with Gedling in 1985. The twinning was initiated by the French town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1985. The twinning was initiated by the French town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1985.

**Messolonghi, Greece**  
A town in Western Greece, twinned with Gedling in 1985. The twinning was initiated by the Greek town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1985. The twinning was initiated by the Greek town and the Gedling Borough Council in 1985.

www.gedling.gov.uk

### Twinning Garden Lectern

Following much of the parks signage being upgraded in 2014 an annual inspection audit is undertaken to ensure all our signage is relevant and in good order.



‘Fingerpost’ signage in the park

# HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE





## HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

### Aims and Objectives

#### Aims

Gedling Borough Council's aim is to achieve a healthy, safe and secure environment in all of its parks for the public to relax in and enjoy.

Parks that are well used and have a sense of local ownership and parks that are well promoted are less likely to be prone to anti-social behaviour, as well as making visitors feel more secure.

#### Objectives

- Good, clean and safe access for all.
- Maintain all accesses, car parks, pathways and fencing in good order mindful of DDA and visitors/staff safety
- Deal with Anti-social behaviour in an effective manner
- Complying to-Statutory Instrument 2004 No118 Prescribed Descriptions (England) order 2004 (Established statutory crime and disorder strategies) Open spaces Act 1906
- Clear signage, both internally and externally.
- Deal with Incidents/Accidents and apply appropriate reporting/investigation
- Promote Healthy Lifestyles

#### Achieving the Objectives

**Security** - Successful management of anti-social behaviour and vandalism contribute heavily towards overall safety of a park giving its visitors the confidence to use the space. The prompt response to the removal of graffiti has proven to reduce the reoccurrence (Green Places, 2008) at Arnot Hill Park we aim to remove Graffiti containing offensive, sexual or

racial material within 24 hours and the remainder within 7 working days.

Arnot Hill Park has had monitored CCTV cameras installed since 2010 (detailed information available on request or during the 'Field Assessment') in response to the public concerns about safety whilst in the park. There has also been £15,000 spent on a youth shelter, young children's cycle pod and cycle racks funded by South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership 'Safe and strong Community Fund'.



Our Park Rangers and parks maintenance operatives have a daily presence within the park. Hopefully this increases the perception of being safe and secure for our visitors.

The Parks Development team, Park Rangers and Parks and Street Care operatives are all working to make the park a secure place. The park and its facilities are inspected daily for damage and regularly patrolled by:

- Park Rangers
- Ground Staff
- Police Community Support Officers

Any findings are reported promptly to the Parks and Street Care Manager. The grounds staff and/or the Environment Officer ensures the repairs are completed satisfactorily.

Any criminal damage in the park is reported and logged with the Police and Gedling Borough's Anti-Social Behaviour team, these incidents are discussed at monthly Anti-Social

## Behaviour meetings with the local Community Beat Manager

There has been a police presence on the park over the past 12 months, both in "Plain Clothes" and "Stop and Search" operations, predominantly to combat drug users and dealers that have been found on or around the park. The local PSCO for Arnot Hill Park is Liam Marshall PSCO 4810.



**GBC Neighbourhood Wardens**

**Health & Safety** - It is the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council to recognise and accept its responsibility as an employer for providing a safe and healthy work place and working environment. Accordingly it is the policy of the council to give the greatest importance to Safety, Health and Welfare at Work of its employees.

The council also recognises its responsibilities towards the safety of visitors, contractors and other persons who enter Council premises and to the safety of persons who may be affected by its work activities. This includes volunteers who are now asked to sign and abide by the Council's newly adopted Corporate Volunteer Policy (2020) – Available to be viewed at Field Assessment. All volunteers now working on Council Parks are asked to sign the Volunteer Induction Form and issued with the correct PPE and work equipment to undertake their tasks.

'Tool' talks are given by the Park Rangers to ensure all activities run safely and that all activities are risk assessed prior to them taking place. distance from each other are also enforced to keep participants and staff safe. To comply with Government guidelines all volunteering when allowed has been limited to

All accidents in the park are recorded immediately upon being reported and follow up management action investigated and monitored. See example of Reporting Form in the Health & Safety Appendix 1A. In addition, 'Risk Assessments' are carried out for all activities in the park.

We also prepare and regularly review manual handling assessments, COSHH assessments and operating procedures, including Hand Arm Vibration monitoring.

In respect of 'Promoting Healthy Lifestyles', the park now provides leases to one Boot Camp business (Ultimate Park Fitness) to operate in the park, it offers three weekly fitness sessions throughout the year. Our Leisure services staff have previously, provided 'Well at Work' sessions, in the Bowls Pavilion, but following Covid many of the staff are now working from home. The Councils Officer for 'Promoting Healthy Lifestyles' does however, produce a monthly newsletter discussing various well-being topics.

A '3-2-1' running route has also been established on the park and it is envisaged that this may be utilised by staff and the public alike in the near future to get fit.



# WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN



## Aims and Objectives

### Aims:

Gedling Borough Council is committed to providing a clean park, with well-maintained landscapes and buildings.

Instances of anti-social behaviour are far higher in parks that have fallen into disrepair, and the best way to combat such behaviour in parks lies in good design, maintenance and management rather than heavy-handed security issues.

### Objectives:

- To manage and maintain soft landscape and trees
- To ensure hard landscaping, buildings and equipment are well maintained
- To review facilities in consultation with all appropriate users
- To keep the park clean and free from litter, graffiti and dog fouling and to action preventative measures.

## Achieving the objectives

**Landscape Maintenance** - The Grounds Maintenance staff from Parks and Street Care maintain the park to a good level of horticultural practice (see Landscape Quality Manual available for viewing during field assessment).

Borders and flower beds provide all year round interest to visitors and are always being sympathetically planned to reflect the history of the site. Two new climbing rose species **Mme Alfred Carrière – (1879) & Etoile de Hollande (1919)** were recently introduced to reach the heights of the pergola that are a feature of the Rose Garden. These two varieties pre-date the more often used hybrids

of the 1930's but still offer a strong fragrance and a degree of disease resistance. During 2019 the Rose Garden was replanted with Old English Roses from David Austin. This was undertaken with the assistance of the Community Pay Back Team, who assisted in the soil being removed to provide a disease free planting area in which, to plant the new rose species.

Several of the Friends Of group members were consulted on the selection and helped with the planting. Fragrance, Disease Resistance and Repeat Flowering helped guide our choices.

**Rosa Lady Emma Hamilton, Roald Dahl, Vanessa Bell, Desdemona, James. L. Austin, Princess Anne, Mayflower, Munstead Wood where the selected species.**



### Revitalised Rose Garden (2020)

A formal **Lavendula** 'Munstead' hedge has also been added to compliment the formal feel of this area.

**Tree Maintenance** – Regular inspections are made to our trees in Arnold Hill Park on an annual basis with particular attention paid to our veteran trees for damaged branches. Findings are dealt with promptly under strict health and safety guidelines by our in house staff trained in Arboriculture team. The majority of the work done on these trees are highlighted as dead, diseased or dying.

To comply with the councils insurance, only qualified Arboriculturalists are employed to

carry out our 'Tree Condition' surveys every two years: with the employment of the councils own 'Tree Officer' all the borough tree stock is now being targeted for inspection. Within the last year Arnot Hill Park has seen a number of trees removed for safety reasons, especially along the 'Nature Trail' to the rear of the park.

Whilst some trees have been planted this winter to compensate for the extensive tree works; others are planned for 2023 following discussions with the 'Tree Officer'.

We have in place a 'Tree Management Plan' and 'Memorial Tree Policy' for the park, which outlines future maintenance requirements and recommendations for new tree planting when requested by members of the public. Whilst the park has an extensive tree canopy, unfortunately nature and environmental pressures see this canopy reduced. As such, we actively replant new tree species annually, to compensate for any losses, thus ensuring a diversity of tree ages.



**Councillor David and Roseanne Ellis  
Planting a Centenary Tree in 2019**

**Grounds, Building and Equipment - A Maintenance Schedule for the Civic Centre and Arnot Hill House Office buildings is prepared by Building Services, evidence of which can be viewed as a separate document**

available on request or during the Field Assessment. The document includes both external and internal works as necessary, to the buildings in the Park.

The Planned Maintenance programme is reviewed annually in Sept/Oct as part of the annual budget review. Also available for inspection during the Green Flag 'Field Assessment' or on request are condition surveys and future maintenance programmes for trees, pond (water quality), pond islands maintenance, fish health, Bird and Bat Boxes and the nature trail.

As the building inspectors occupy the buildings, formal weekly inspections of the buildings are not carried out as they usually relate to heating checks etc., and the team is usually aware of the condition of the buildings on a daily basis.

Building Services also maintain the public toilets within the Lakeside pavilion building. The toilets are cleaned daily and the cleaner completes a daily report which identifies any repairs for building services to act upon.

Following instructions from the current Council Administration (E.g. Elected Members) the 'Aviary' was closed due to budget restraints. In the short-term the building has been secured with a series of mural panels undertaken by a number of schools from the locality. Whilst this was seen as a short-term solution the murals have now received attention (2020) to extend their life expectancy.



**Aviary**

Councillors Members, Estates Team and the Senior Leadership Team continue to consult with a wide range of partners to find an

alternative use for the building. Nottingham Registrars have been granted Planning Permission for the building to convert into a venue for civil ceremonies, but as yet have not secured funding for their ambitions.

A possible scoping exercise undertaken by the 'Friends Of' group, community and the parks department did discuss converting the building into a heritage hub. Much of this ambition would depend on securing Heritage Lottery Funding and securing capital budgets.

This however, has since been superseded by a desire to develop the building into a 'Changing Places' facility and now lies within the Economic Development Department. They have stated that this would be a long-term target given the extensive costs associated with this kind of development.

(Please see Action Plan)

The bowls pavilion is also occupied by the Park Rangers who will report faults to the Parks and Street Care team. This recently built facility also incorporates many DDA compliant features into the building design,



**Bowling Green**

**Disabled Toilet Facilities**

Planned maintenance to the toilets and kiosk is usually limited to internal/external decoration as these features are relatively new.

**War Memorial** - An annual cleaning programme is carried out by Parks and Street Care staff and minor repairs carried out and funded via a dedicated corporate budget for

War Memorials, if major restoration works were required this would be funded from the Corporate Capital Programme.

**Play Areas** - Across the Borough we are currently designing these spaces with 'Accessible Play Space' in mind. It is our aim to provide stimulating and accessible play space for all children, the DDA recognises that each child has different requirements and therefore recommends,

"That developers should concentrate on making the environment fit for the child". With this in mind, the newly developed play area has DDA compliant equipment installed during its refurbishment in 2018.



**DDA compliant Roundabout and Self-Closing Gates**



Arnot Hill Park children's play area was subject to a Post Installation Inspection and is now inspected weekly by grounds staff to comply with ROSPA playground safety inspections guidelines. Any hazards, damage or Graffiti is

dealt with by PASC staff and our specialist playground maintenance team rectify any faults with the equipment.

**Clean** – A Parks and Street Care crew of experienced NVQ qualified staff currently maintain the grounds to BS 7370. This team is additionally supported by Parks and Street Care senior supervisors who ensure the grounds are maintained and managed to a highest standard.

Inspection for cleanliness is in accordance with the Litter Act 1983 and Dog waste bins under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. The park is litter picked and debris is removed. Waste bin and dog waste bins are emptied by grounds staff in accordance with the Councils Parks and Street Care Departments guidelines, as detailed in the Landscape Quality Manual (available for viewing during the field assessment).

In line with our Action Plan, the Parks Department have now replaced all the open topped bins with a covered alternative and are still working with our local McDonalds to help litter pick the site during the peak summer months. Additionally, their staff have committed to undertaking quarterly environmental tasks with ourselves and have assisted ourselves in both additional litter picking and leaf clearance. All the leaves collected were recycled to the boroughs allotments.



**McDonalds Staff November 2020**

Dogs in parks can cause a nuisance and are a common complaint to MP's (Green Places, 2008) due to fouling and boisterous behaviour. Through use of byelaws Gedling is trying to address some of these issues.

Gedling Borough Council operates a zero policy to dog fouling, this is covered under a Public Space Protection order which covers all the Borough's parks. 'No Dog Fouling' signs are posted throughout the park and fencing around play equipment preventing entry by dogs. The Neighbourhood Wardens regularly patrol the site and will enforce the policy when necessary.

Our Neighbourhood Wardens educate park users regarding dog fouling on parks by attending park events, visiting local schools and engaging with the public. They will take enforcement action if necessary and if reported by the public. CCTV cameras cover the park however they are not specifically for dog fouling. If CCTV cameras catch footage of dog fouling this can be used as evidence for conviction.

During this year 2021-22 no fixed penalty notices have been issued for dog fouling in Arnot Hill Park, although the Neighbourhood Wardens have followed up complaints about individual dog owners and have reiterated the Councils position on dog fouling. This being said we receive limited complaints and as stated these reports are investigated. The CCTV cameras, rangers and council staff having a presence in the park all act as a deterrent to dog fouling.

### **Litter, Cleanliness and Vandalism on Arnot Hill Park - A Case Study, "The Nature Trail"**

The 'Nature Trail' has historically suffered with a high amount of littering. The litter is generally deposited by park users and people using the trail as a "short cut" onto and from Aylesham Avenue and the housing estate beyond. There have also been various reports of fly-tipping in this area, mainly coming from the back

gardens of neighbouring properties onto the trail.

The nature trail is litter picked once every morning in order to keep the area litter free and throughout the day as required. Any fly tips or major litter issues are reported by the Park Operatives or Rangers or to our Neighbourhood Wardens, for investigation.

Consistent with Parks Department policy on replacing dog bins throughout the borough, standardised bins have also been placed down the Nature trail. These bins are now both utilised for general waste and dog faeces and are well utilised by dog walkers. Dog foul issues in this area remain on the decrease since they were installed.

The Nature Trail has undergone significant re-development over recent years, supported mainly by Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme. Local artists "Urban Canvas" were commissioned to work



with local young adults and the County Council's Youth Service on producing a sympathetic design.

Like all of these projects the paintwork had begun to deteriorate and as a consequence, in line with the Action Plan the Parks Department commissioned a similar project in 2019. Working with City Arts, Other local partners and a new generation of local youngsters the mural was completed as part of the parks centenary celebrations by local artist Amy Nicholson.

Unlike our previous approach the Parks Department applied a Graffiti Coating to protect the complex design work. This has since proven to be a wise decision, but has since deterred those responsible for the



tagging from revisiting their crime.

### **Bridge Mural inspired by the parks**

#### **100+ years of public service.**

Other similar projects have also seen children from Derrymount School in the transformation of the youth shelter and the council have also allowed a local artist Ryan Smith, aka 'Carrot Boy' to work on the Skateboard Bowl. Whilst essentially working as a volunteer Ryan was asked to submit a design and undertake consultation with local skateboard and BMX users before commencing any artwork.



### Urban Canvas Design 2013

Whilst some additional graffiti was initially added to the mural, this soon abetted and the project was a huge success in deterring unwanted graffiti for some years. The Council did have an option to use an anti-graffiti covering at this time, but decided to monitor the situation and pay for any small maintenance work as required.



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Aims and Objectives

#### Aims:

Gedling Borough Council is committed to ensuring the site is managed with a positive impact on the environment.

#### Objectives

- Cease use of pesticides.
- Endeavour to recycle waste material in the grounds and support Local Agenda 21.
- To work within Gedling Borough Council's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan
- To work within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 □ To continue to plant tree's within the park Environmental and Biodiversity values
- Use of perennial planting in some of the bedding display area.

There is an environmental policy in use for the maintenance and management of Arnot Hill Park which can be viewed as a separate document during the Green Flag Field Assessment or on request.

In addition to this, one of the key aims of the Aligned Core Strategy, which is being prepared in partnership with the other authorities within Greater Nottingham, is the delivery of sustainable development. This includes policies to provide sustainable patterns of development, ensure that development is constructed to a high sustainability standard and renewable energy schemes are permitted in appropriate locations. It also looks to ensure good access to parks and open space reducing the need to travel. The Aligned Core Strategy has now been published. Further information can be found on the Borough Council website

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/planningbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/localdevelopmentframework/greaternottinghamalignedcorestrategy/>

### Carbon Management Strategy

Gedling Borough Council adopted their Carbon Management Strategy 2021-2030 in 2021. The strategy has ambitious plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030 and has six key areas where emissions can be reduced. For parks management this includes decarbonisation of fleet vehicles, installation of energy efficient LED lighting in park buildings, planting trees and creating pollination zones. For more information see this link

<https://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/gedlingboroughcouncil/documents/environmentalhealth/Appendix%20A%20-%20Carbon%20Management%20Strategy%20%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

#### Achieving the Objectives

**Pesticides** – Following a vote by Elected Members of the Council, in 2021, a decision to ban the use of chemicals (Especially, Glyphosate) on its land was taken.

The Council took this positive approach to try and reduce the council's impact on pollinators, such as bees whose populations have been significantly reduced over the years as a result of such practices. The only exception to this is where the use of herbicides limited to control non-native invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed is required.

The council have been trialling a range of methods and biocides to suppress weeds in undesirable locations (tank mix of Katoun Gold with Chikara and New Way Weed Spray', MAPP No. 15319). This is ongoing and recommendations for the best way forward are still being identified.

### Civic Centre Island Bed (2013)

**Recycle Waste Material** – The majority of Green Waste produced by the department is recycled by a nearby facility, leaves are distributed to local allotment sites and wood chippings spread as mulch on several large shrub beds in the park. Additionally, plastic trays and pots used for bedding plants are returned to the local nursery for recycling.

**GBC's Sustainability Strategy & Action Plan** – Solar panels are installed on the Civic Centre the Jubilee Depot roofs with a 25 year Feed-In Tariff

**Floral Displays** – Whilst historically, the park has always focused on a Victorian bedding scheme to welcome its visitors; the sustainable merits of this type of planting scheme unfortunately can no longer be met by our limited resources.

From 2014, all of the parks bedding schemes were transformed to incorporate a larger proportion of Herbaceous Perennials and Grasses. Being less demanding on the environment and requiring less maintenance. Only the Civic Centre Island Bed now contains any Annual Bedding and floral baskets display have been reduced from 2019.



### Civic Centre Island Bed incorporating



### Herbaceous Perennials and Grasses

**Tree Planting** - introduction of new trees should have the following considerations:

- Pollution tolerance
- Climate change
- Water sustainability
- Value of habitat
- Increase use of pest and Disease resistance species

Working closely with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on tree removal, to improve habitats by:

- Leaving dead wood standing
- Creating log piles for habitats
- Natural seating-create outdoor classroom
- Erecting Bird/Bat Boxes
- All trees fully labelled and catalogued

### Environmental and Biodiversity Values

Urban greening is vital to the environmental impact on the townscape; trees greatly improve the effects of:

- Carbon omissions
- Poor air Quality
- Air pollution
- Surface water run off
- Urban heat islands
- Noise pollution
- Animal and invertebrates habitats

Governmental targets to improve biodiversity in green spaces as agreed at Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 to deal adequately with climatic changes such as flooding. Trees are known to contribute to the uptake of floodwater as a method of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

**Peat Use** - We as a Parks Department are committed to using peat-free compost and as such, use growers committed to this ethos. Hanging Baskets and any annual bedding is currently, supplied by Nottingham City Council Parks Department who adhere to these principles.

### **OTHER SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES**

Other sustainable activities carried out by Parks and Street Care include:

- Sourcing limestone from reputable sources
- Recycling plant pots and other plastic containers
- Leaf Litter recycled at local allotment sites
- Tree and Shrubs bought from local nurseries to reduce their Carbon Footprint
- Provision of an undercover Bike storage on site to promote reduced car use for staff and visitors

### **Water Fountain installed at the Kiosk**

In 2021 a water fountain was installed adjacent to the kiosk to reduce single use plastic. Gedling Borough is a plastic clever Council therefore a number of these were installed at several of our parks.

# BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE



## BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

### Aims and Objectives

#### Aims

Gedling Borough Council aims to increase the value of its heritage and enhance the biodiversity of Arnot Hill Park.

#### Objectives

- Increase Biodiversity- encourage and enhance habitats to maximise wildlife value
- Work within Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 section 74)
- Manage and maintain buildings and heritage to give value to the community

#### Achieving the Objectives

#### Habitat Management

The Rangers have continued to introduce various new habitats within the park with the outcome of sustaining the wildlife currently inhabiting the area. However, the location, character and size of the park will only allow limited opportunities to create suitable large scale habitats for wildlife but every effort is made to utilise the space we have available.

In 2015 EMEC Ecology were commissioned to write a report on the habitats of the park. Whilst many of the recommendations were already being met, further proposals are now being steadily actioned and included in the current 'Action Plan' for 2020/21.

Highlights of the report are listed below: -

- Planting of bulbs
- Enhancement of the lake for amphibians.
- Additional bat boxes and bird boxes

- Invertebrate boxes / artificial habitats could be installed
- Various further ecological surveys could be carried out

A full copy of the report will be available on the day of the Field Assessment.

Other significant changes that have an impact on bio-diversity have arisen through financial constraints, with open grassland areas to the rear of the Civic Centre being created.

Further additional wildflower meadows have been undertaken towards the top end of the park and these continue to be expanded annually as budget and human resources allow. This commitment was initiated following a request from the 'Friends Of' group and local residents.

In line with EMEC Ecology's report only locally sourced native wildflower mixes, plugs and bulbs are used. Whilst we continue to develop these areas, we are somewhat limited in our ability to manage these meadows at this current time.

The lake has seen significant changes in its management over the last five years to improve water quality and to increase its habitat value. Floating Reed beds have now been successfully restocked with a mixture of native aquatic plants used to maintain a healthy ecosystem. -

***Lythrum salicaria*** - Purple-loosestrife

***Juncus effuses*** - Soft Rush

***Iris pseudacorus*** - Yellow Iris

***Phragmites australis*** - Norfolk Reed

***Mentha aquatic*** - Water Mint

***Caltha palustris*** - Marsh Marigold

All this work and the use of Barley Straw and treatments of Dyofix (An Organic Food Colourant used to Control Light) have been found to be successful in combating Blue Green Algae. Additionally, the Rangers work closely with the local Environment Agency Officer and also monitor both water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels to

better understand the ecology of the lake. Further maintenance work is scheduled during 2023/2024 to comply with EMEC Ecology recommendations for the lake (Please see EMEC Ecology Reports at Field Assessment).

As well working closely with the Environment Agency we also periodically, employ the services of Jon Wall Fisheries, to net the lake and remove any unwanted fish. Following an inspection and netting in 2018, the lake has its lowest ever stock of fish. This may be due in part to natural predators like Grey Herons and Cormorants who inhabit the park from time to time. Further maintenance of the lakes islands has also been recommended and will be undertaken at appropriate times throughout the coming years.

Nesting boxes for birds were first installed in park in spring 2008, with annual cleaning and maintenance carried out before the 31<sup>st</sup> January each year in accordance with the British Trust for Ornithology recommendations. Throughout this period both our bird and bat boxes have been consistently used.



**Some of the 20+ Bird & Bat Boxes**

As part of national RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology events, the Rangers have continued to hold activities like the RSPB 'Feed the Birds Day' in the park, to show

people how to make feeders and what to feed different species.

### Greylag Geese



The Park Rangers with the aid of Nottingham Wildlife Trust continue to evaluate wildlife habitats and monitor the bird population, including migrants on the park. These sighting records are sent to Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, who record and display the results on their Website.

It is the Parks Policy to encourage appropriate feeding of the wildfowl. All park stakeholders distribute appropriate feeding leaflets and there is bird seed available to purchase at the Kiosk

Throughout the park bird feeding stations have been erected with funding donated from



the public, Councillors and the 'Friends Of' group. The Rangers provide a selection of supplementary feeds during the year, high-energy seed, peanuts and fat balls, with the wildfowl receiving feeds all through the winter.

Bat boxes have also been introduced to the park to provide the bats with additional roosts during the summer when the bats use the park as a feeding ground. Since 2008 the



South Nottinghamshire Bat Group have supported us in educating the public about this species.

To date five species of bats, (Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, Whiskered and Daubenton) have been recorded on the park but more surprisingly two 'Noctule Bats', more common to feeding in woodland or hunting over fields, were found foraging over the parks lake.

Britain's Bats are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Bat Conservation and how they care for injured bats are covered by this legalisation. Nottinghamshire Bat Group has kindly volunteered to help inspect the boxes for damage or disease. Due to GBC policy on pesticides use there has been an increase in insect species providing more food for birds and bats visiting nesting and roosting in the park. Future provision to carry out an audit of species will be put in place.

Trees and lined avenues are aesthetically pleasing in themselves but they also structure the design of many parks. During the Victorian era parkland was designed to reflect an ideal vision, 'That of nature civilised and artfully displayed'. The designs of parks with winding walks, perimeter belts of trees and serpentine lake link to the tradition of gardening which hailed as Britain's greatest contribution to European culture.

Future generations that use the park may value the tree collection as an educational and recreational resource. To date nearly ninety species of tree have been identified.

Spaces with trees and grasses offer improved play spaces for children; parks can play a significant role in increasing environmental awareness and in delivering the objectives of the National Curriculum.

There is provision within the Parks Management to replace trees with native species where appropriate and to increase the food source and shelter opportunity for birds. As a consequence, since 2008 a number of

new trees have been introduced to the park due in part to the loss of significant veterans.

GBC has worked hard to have all trees surveyed and catalogued with some species labelled for the parks tree trail which has an accompanying leaflet and is available to see on our website. The tree collection will be promoted by arranging guided tours and teaching days for visitors and schools.

The area known as the 'Nature Trail' was completed in the spring of 2013. It is hoped the area will benefit from an increase in native wildflowers along this route and as such, attract and increase its value to wildlife.

When restocking shrubberies and borders, preference is given to species that are considered beneficial for wildlife value. Since 2010 we have planted Buddleia, Leycesteria Formosa and Pyracantha, amongst others.

## **Buildings and Heritage**

Arnot Hill Park evokes a strong sense of place, giving heritage value to the local and wider community; based on this GBC has adopted a policy of open access to allow pedestrian and cars entry into all parts of the park at all times.

Since the park's opening to the public in 1919 a number of original features that are mentioned in the 'Sites History', have sadly been removed. Therefore it is of great importance to GBC that the remaining structures like Arnot Hill House are maintained and restored appropriately when required.

Importantly, even though the house is a Grade 2 Listed building and as such, is a pivotal structure within the parks landscape, to many the historical significance of its history lies in the previous incumbents; like Mr Thomas Hawksley who was renowned Water Engineer. Or the fact that the house served as a Red cross Hospital during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

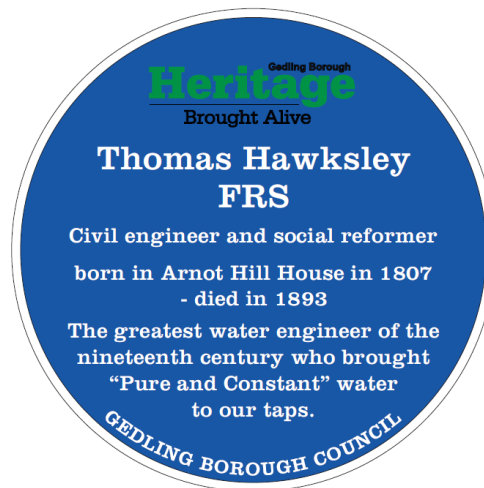
The War Memorial will continue to be cared for by GBC as it forms an important part of the Parks Heritage, listing the names of local people who lost their lives in active service for their country. This memorial, alongside others in the borough has been registered with War Memorials Trust.



### Arnot Hill Park War Memorial

Thanks in part to a generous donation from Severn Trent Water the park has honoured one of its most famous sons Mr. Thomas Hawksley; who was born in Arnot Hill House in 1807. A Civil Water Engineer of the nineteenth century, Hawksley was responsible for sanitising water in Nottingham and eliminating cholera.

The park has celebrated his life and connections back in the 1930's but the plaque that once was displayed in the park has long since been lost and this money will be used to provide a befitting tribute.



### GBC own Heritage Plaque To Thomas Hawksley

Designed by local artist Richard Janes, many local partners including Arnold History Society and some passionate Hawksley historians helped to collaborate on the project. The memorial takes its inspirational style from other Victorian memorials, and features architectural references that Hawksley would have known and designed himself.

The sculpture was unveiled to the public on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 by local councillors and an ancestor of Thomas Hawksley.



### Hawksley Sculpture

Local press and TV coverage covered the event and this was also featured on the Gedling Eye website. <https://www.gedlingeye.co.uk/news/thomas-hawksley-statue-unveiled-arnold-park/>

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Aims and Objectives

#### Aims

Visitors to the park often span many generations of families who can all relate to Arnot Hill Park as a place of recreation and evoking a strong sense of place. All have a valid say in the future of the park and need to be involved.

People that use or live in close proximity to parks and green spaces are known to have improvements to their mental health and improved physical health.

It has been difficult to obtain exact park user figures, however annual surveys reveal that the park attracts a large number of dog walkers, families accessing the play area, people exercising and walking, adults and children attending events, young people meeting friends after school or college and people accessing the Civic Centre building in the park. It has therefore been assumed that there is in excess of 42,000 park user per annum, a figure that will continue to expand with more events in the park and increases in numbers visiting for school holiday activities.

Since the difficulties of Covid 19 pandemic, corporately, all events have somewhat been streamlined and whilst there are still plans to deliver some events on the park, the glory days of the 'Carnival and Play Days' have succumbed to financial constraints.

This being said the popularity of Parks and Open Spaces has still seen the Carlton Brass Band and Carlton Choir, Eagles Nest Church providing entertainment on the park in 2022. The Salvation Army have also provided an outdoor Christmas service on Christmas day in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, the Council also funded a Queens Jubilee Celebration, Chinese New Year activity and funding was also made available for a Skateboard Jam on the park.



#### Bee and Butterfly Feeders Event



Although some members of the public have taken an interest in the recent changes within the site, GBC aim to promote the park to the local and wider community through the Green Flag and Gedling Borough Council's websites.

It is also our aim to give wider consultation to the public who use the space. This is discussed further under the Marketing Criteria.

#### Objectives

- To increase the number of people who use our parks – To encourage voluntary and community groups to keep parks in good repair.
- Increase number of events as a marketing tool
- Give wider consultation in future development within the park
- Work with business volunteers

- Work with the 'Friends Of' group to provide the best possible interpretation for the park's assets, with them taking an active role in the future writing of the Management Plan
- Continue to work with local schools
- Work as partner to the friends of group and other user groups to assist in fund raising
- Support Café/Kiosk staff by supplying information about the park

### Achieving the Objectives

GBC Parks Development team regularly meet with Arnot Hill Park 'Friends Of' group and others to inform and exchange ideas we continue to identify new user groups as well as promoting the park and its facilities within the council and externally via the Marketing Plan – Please see Appendix 5A.



**Arnot Hill Park Play Day**

The marketing plan should bring results over the coming years and be integral in informing current users and encouraging new users about the value of the park as a recreational and educational resource.

Consultation at present is largely through the elected members, local schools and the 'Friends Of' group, their views reflect the original aims of Arnot Hill Park being an educational resource and providing relaxation for all the people of Arnold and the wider community.

Buildings have always provided a focus in parks particularly cafes and kiosks, a meeting

place to refresh park users; toilets and changing areas in the pavilion. Arnot Hill Park have recently negotiated a new tenancy agreement for the Café/Kiosk and the new tenants have modified the building to accommodate a small seating area. A slightly more varied menu is also now offered within Lakeview Café.

Whilst Gedling Borough Council has continued to attract volunteers there have been limited opportunities for corporate employees to work on the park, although the local McDonalds franchise have now become actively involved in volunteering on the park and have undertaken some sessions during 2022. We continue to promote volunteer opportunities on the Council's website.



**McDonalds Staff Volunteers (2020)**

Additionally, Nottinghamshire Probation Services 'Pay Back' scheme who have in previous years had a Service Level Agreement with Gedling Borough Council, have been instrumental in supporting the Parks Department on many projects around the Borough. They are a valued working partner, who along with other volunteers have cleaned out the lakes overflow known as the 'Dell' and refurbished the benches throughout the park, amongst other tasks.

During the past year their staff have also actively, engaged on planting many trees on both Arnot Hill Park and several neighbouring sites. Opportunities to plant trees to celebrate 50 Years of the Probation Services are

currently, been discussed and show the strength of partnership working.



### **The refurbished 'Dell'**

Other projects the Community Pay Back Teams are considering undertaking on site are the replacement of the existing post and chain fencing that embellishes the parks Victorian heritage. It is envisaged that replacing all two hundred and fifty wooden posts with recycled plastic will reduce the overall annual expenditure on maintenance and repair of this feature.

Consistent with several other areas in the park, the 'Dell' has been mulched with recycled chippings from the council's tree team. In many cases from trees that have needed to be felled in the park.

Work on the Sensory Twinning and Centenary Rose Garden has developed further during the period and a new interpretation lectern installed.



**Twinning Lectern installed December 2020**



**Official Opening of the New Play Area June 2018**

# MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS





# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

## Aims and Objectives

### Aims

Gedling Borough Council has pride in its parks and in particular the status of Arnot Hill Park, it is our aim to work closely in partnership with the friends of group and other community groups to promote the Park. Arnot Hill Park like the Council's other parks has always been quite local, relying on promoting future events on posters on the odd wall, the local paper and radio. Word of mouth use of social media has probably been the most successful medium.

As a result of updating our marketing plan (available on request and during the Field Assessment.) and following the comments from the Green Flag judges in previous years, we have surveyed the wider communities who use the park. We have developed a postcard sized user satisfaction survey card (with FREEPOST return mailing). We aim to make them accessible to the public who attend events within the park. A user satisfaction survey is also available for completion on the parks webpages, see link below:

[https://apps.gedling.gov.uk/\(S\(fqj1e450xnofjundkkol555\)\)/forms/default.asp?formid=65](https://apps.gedling.gov.uk/(S(fqj1e450xnofjundkkol555))/forms/default.asp?formid=65)

We aim to carry out annual park surveys face to face with the assistance of the 'Friends Of' Arnot Hill Park and GBC staff to obtain visitor numbers and user satisfaction information. The information gained can be used to provide base data for the marketing plan ensuring we are continually striving to meet the needs of the wider community the park serves. The annual results of the face to face surveys undertaken in 2022 still show a high level of satisfaction and that the council is delivering high quality Parks and Open Spaces.

Like all surveys the negativity surrounding Arnot Hill Park is the cleanliness of its toilets; unfortunately, this is common theme of public dissatisfaction when it comes to public utilities and whilst, this is taking on board the toilets are cleaned twice daily and any unforeseen circumstances dealt with promptly.

### Objectives

- To work in partnership with the groups that use our parks
- To promote events to the local and wider community
- Liaise with the Communications Officer towards the review of the Marketing Plan/Strategy for the service
- Head of Parks to decide on a baseline for performance indicators (Parks Satisfaction).
- Ensure that any current displayed information is of the highest quality, on and off site.



Tree Trail Leaflet

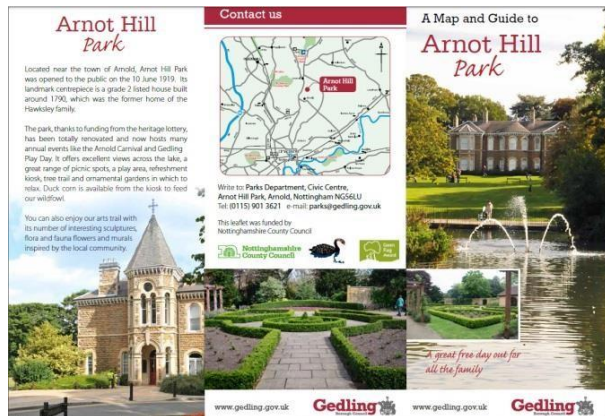
### Achieving the Objectives

Although the status of the park and what it offers does guide the nature and content of events, we are working hard on promoting our events to the local and wider community through Council marketing material, press releases and photo opportunities to the local media.

Gedling Borough Council's website lists details about our parks with an updated specific page relating to Arnot Hill Park.

A new General Parks, Tree and Arts Trail Leaflets are also available from a number of Council buildings (Bowls Pavilion, Kiosk and Civic Centre) and will also be distributed by Nottinghamshire County Council to local libraries amongst others. These leaflets will be available to both view and download from Gedling Borough Councils website.

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure/parksopenespaces/arnothillpark/>



### General Park & Tree Trail Leaflet

Details of developments and forthcoming events also go into The Contacts Magazine which is distributed to residents and businesses in Gedling Borough and is also available to download on-line, see link below:

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/aboutus/newspublications/contactsmagazine/>

Additionally, digital media is now being widely used within the council along with social media pages like Facebook to keep in touch with park users. Arnot Hill Park Facebook page is updated regularly to reflect what is happening on the park and often used to inform the public of park issues or points of interest. To date more than 1700 people like the page and often post comments: -

Bernadette Clarke

**“Such a beautiful park to visit, great for young and old alike, has a lovely café with great views of the lake. It’s a little oasis in the middle of Arnold”**

In addition the Friends of Arnot Hill Park also post regular updates on their Facebook page.

Posters detailing information about events in the park are placed on notice boards within the park and on public notice boards around the Borough. Digital screens located in the Civic Centre are also utilised to advertise future events.

Since obtaining Grant Aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund the park has opportunities to promote itself extensively. The scope and content of the events can now be based on the heritage of the park and help to build upon this investment.

The Council is committed to ensuring that market research is carried out in a structured manner to give measurable results of success. In this way resources, even if limited, can be targeted to give best value to the community and the Authority.

The park has featured in many positive news articles in the local press; none more than the article in the Nottingham Evening Post that listed the Top Ten ‘Picnic Spots’ in Nottinghamshire.

### Notts' Top Ten Picnic Spots by

#### [Nottingham Post](#)

In an article run by Nottinghamshire Evening Post, Arnot Hill Park featured as one of the top ten ‘Picnic’ destinations in the County alongside Wollaton Hall, Colwick and Rushcliffe Country Park amongst others.



**Relaxing: Arnot Hill Park**

awaaware of many local residents litter picking in parkthe park and its surrounding.

Councillor David Ellis the Chair of the 'Friend Of' group and also the 'Portfolio Holder for Events is still supporting the park and pushing for events to be held on the park. Additionally, the Rangers along with other local councillors continue to both support and promote the group widely and now extensively market the group on social media and via posters in our noticeboards. The group are now extensively consulted on all park related matters and any actions they raise are addressed by the Parks Departments Management at our team meetings.

## **FUTURE CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

Against the backdrop of a difficult economic environment, and increased demand for our services, it is inevitable that cuts will mean we have to offer less as a council parks service – what we will offer will be done well, but we will no longer be able to provide all of the services we currently do.

Wear and tear remains a problem as demand on the park grows and budgets are reduced. In particular pathway and roadways are beginning to deteriorate and as such, short-term fixes have been budgeted for and works carried out. Similarly, the post and chain fencing that gives the park its Victorian feel as also been noted and although contractors have undertaken some of this work, a rolling programme of replacement is still be embarked upon. New and replacement planting also continues to take place within the park as old schemes become tired and have reached maturity.

Given the parks centenary, work was undertaken to refurbish the 'Rose Garden' with new roses chosen and planted by the 'Friends Of' group. The group have been keen to plan this work and it is envisaged that the old fashioned English Roses varieties will provide a vibrant display throughout summer.

Recruitment to the 'Friends Of' group still remains challenging, although we now have the foundation of a new committee and feel that the recent development of the play area may attract others. Whilst, some individuals are not interested in the formality of being part of a Friends Of group we are

We continue to run an informal Volunteer/Gardening sessions to try to encourage and attract participants to become 'Friends Of' group members. To date we have had some success in recruiting some new individual's and these are a welcome resource to the park.

### **Summary of Maintenance Plan**

The Landscape Quality Manual outlines the site's current maintenance practices for the grounds hard and soft features, including guidance notes of practises carried out on site, frequency of actions; all within Health and safety procedures and COSHH regulations.

The grounds maintenance costs budgeted for the tax year 2023/2024 is approximately £40,300.

# MANAGEMENT



## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aims**

#### **The vision for Arnot Hill Park is:**

'To develop and sustain the substantial heritage and history of the park as well as the recreational and educational qualities of the site confirming its reputation as the 'Flagship Park' of the Borough'

### **Objectives**

- To provide a welcoming park with excellent access for all.
- To create a clean and safe park environment.
- To maintain the park to BS7370 taking care to ensure its heritage is preserved.
- To adhere to good environmental and biodiversity values when carrying out operations in the park.
- To increase the number of people who use the park and encourage more community groups to use the park.
- To promote parks events to the local and wider community and promote the park as a first class outdoor and indoor education facility.

### **Partners**

We promote partnership working, which is vital to the development of the park. Our partners include:

- Parks and Street Care Services, Inc. Parks Development.
- Community Services Inc. Arts and Play Officers.
- Technical Services.
- Facilities Management Services.
- Nottinghamshire County Council – Local Schools and Youth Service

- Gedling Borough Council Youth Council
- Local and County Councillors
- Nottinghamshire Probation 'Community Payback'
- McDonalds Restaurants
- Arnot Hill Park Friends Group.
- Arnold Rotary Club.
- Gedling Play Partnership.
- Gedling Play Forum.
- Greenwood Community Forest
- British Trust for Ornithology

### **Policies**

- Gedling Plan (2021-2023)
- Aligned Core Strategy 2011-2028
- GBC Corporate Volunteer Policy (2020)
- South Nottingham Community Safety Strategy 2013 onwards
- Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy (2021-2026)
- Carbon Management Strategy (2021-2030)
- The Sustainable Communities Strategy Carbon Management Strategy (2021-2030) Vision 2026 and its 5 Priorities.
- Gedling Borough Councils Heritage Strategy (2018)
- Nottinghamshire Bio-Diversity Action Plan (BAP)
- Animal Welfare Policy (2014)
- AHP – Tree 'Management Plan'
- GBC Memorial Tree and Bench Policy
- GBC Parks Byelaws.

## **Achieving the Objectives**

### **Management of the Park**

Responsibility for the overall management of Arnot Hill Park is principally with Gedling Borough Council under the direction of the Head of Environment. Principle staff include the Parks and Street Care Supervisors and the Technical Services Manager, they are assisted by their teams, which include the Parks Development Officer, Urban Park Rangers, Parks and Street Care Operation Manager for Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Operatives.

The teams work alongside one another within the same department and meet regularly to discuss maintenance and future development.

All management operations including marketing and promotion will be designed to reflect the completion of the stated aims and objectives. The Park does and will continue to require a significant amount of practical ongoing maintenance, to ensure the fabric of the site remains in good condition; in order that its heritage value may be further promoted, by the Authority.

Arnot Hill Park has always been popular and well used by the people of Arnold and the wider community.

The park in the recent past has benefited from a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, reflecting its commitment to conserving the heritage and developing the resources of the site for the continued enjoyment of all its visitors. Currently the site does not suffer from targeted vandalism, though from time to time there are inevitably signs of vandalism, which are dealt with promptly by grounds staff.

### **Resources for the Park**

The costs associated with park management are from the budgets held by Gedling Borough Council. Arnot Hill Park budgets for specialist

areas such as children's play equipment and young people's equipment wherever possible will be funded from external outside grant schemes.

### **Park User Feedback.**

(See Marketing Page 46)

Based upon the 2021 Satisfaction Survey of the Borough's Park Users, 82% of those sampled stated they felt that the 'Park and its Amenities are Clean and Well-maintained'. Although, 18% did have issues with the cleanliness of the toilets and to some extent the opening hours of these during the summer months. Parks staff currently clean the toilets twice daily and every attempt is made to keep these to an acceptable standard.

Additionally 96% of parks users felt that the park was safe. 93% of the individuals spoken too, were either 'Satisfied' or 'Very Satisfied' with Arnot Hill Park. Obviously we are very happy with these results, however, we continue to identify areas that users are dissatisfied with and work towards improving their overall experience.

The findings from the commissioned Parks Access Audit have helped us address some specific areas of dissatisfaction with regards access. As per our Action Plan a further DDA Compliant Audit is planned for the future and the findings of the surveys recently, undertaken highlighted the potential use of the aviary as a 'Changing Rooms' facility.

## ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The analysis and assessment assists managers to take the most appropriate actions over a set period. This should achieve a balance between the needs of the site, the community, the Corporate Strategy and resources available. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis is a well-used management technique, which clarifies the areas causing concern and those that are delivering successfully.

The following analysis focuses on the criteria for the Green Flag award scheme. This is used above in Management Aims. The criteria are typical of almost all park sites.

### **Chart 2: SWOT**

<b>A welcoming place</b>	
Strengths	Excellent vehicle and pedestrian access; convenient disabled parking spaces; main sign in place; the general aspect at entrances is welcoming; little evidence of litter; most pathways internally are accessible to everyone; staff commitment and thriving Friends group; marketing strategy
Weaknesses	Pedestrian and vehicle mix on some of the pathways
Opportunities	NCC LIS funding for parks improvements; further funding to raise grounds maintenance standard; Friends group applied for funding re administration & training; more schools to be approached; market park to wider community
Threats	Lack of resources to sustain increase in staffing; friends group may diminish in numbers; lack of available funding for signage and future interpretation
<b>Healthy safe and secure</b>	
Strengths	Well defined paths; regular surveys of buildings and paths; risk assessments up to date; regular recorded safety checks for the playground and skateboard park; improving grounds maintenance; interested Friends group
Weaknesses	contact information not published at all accesses; grounds maintenance still improving; no visitor information point; pedestrians and vehicles sharing some stretches of roadway
Opportunities	Increase 'official' presence on site, keep notice board information up to date; Increase the number of events; develop accompanied school visits; improve and increase information at accesses
Threats	Standard of grounds and general maintenance; CCTV may malfunction, Friends group may diminish
<b>Well maintained and clean</b>	
Strengths	Condition surveys of all parks buildings carried out annually; promotional programme re schools and public education being discussed; grounds maintenance specified to BS 7370; commitment from staff and friends group
Weaknesses	Reducing budgets
Opportunities	To promote the park as a well-maintained site; opportunities to work with local schools and other visitors; possible partnerships with local youth groups/programmes
Threats	Lack of funding for general promotion and focus on everyday park events; lack of resources to fund public interest events in the park
<b>Sustainability</b>	
Strengths	Active involvement of staff in promoting environmental statement and policy; friends group and operative staff involved in discussions of draft management plan
Weaknesses	Potential of buildings not yet exploited; potential for recycling any/every kind of waste not yet investigated;

Opportunities	To manage the park and its facilities via the management plan; to research further funding for education and health issues; further involve other officers, all operatives/Friends group and other volunteers together from time to time; promote appropriate events, produce info for public; establish Ranger posts.
Threats	Lack of officer/operative time to progress and complete practical objectives

<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>	
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Strengths	Substantial funding obtained to refurbish and improve original features and provide new ones; easy access for the public; many visitors because of proximity of Council's administrative offices; it's an attractive site
Weaknesses	Require more detailed surveys of flora and fauna; maintenance of newly restored fabric not always comprehensive; more interpretation for visitors; no precise development aims yet with regard to best use of assets built or otherwise
Opportunities	To promote the sites special qualities particularly the economic history; potential to be an excellent resource for schools and other groups e.g. the tree trail; potential to create an information point, perhaps at the cafeteria; potential to use the site as a flagship for staff training particularly as Council offices part of whole site
Threats	Lack of resources and focus on the way forward for the site

<b>Community involvement</b>	
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Strengths	Friends group meet monthly with officers; council funded ranger posts; marketing plan outlined; park focused events planned; business volunteers utilised
Weaknesses	Few if any young people/disabled involved in the Friends group; need more comprehensive park user's numbers and visitor data to use as baseline for marketing plan.
Opportunities	Promote Friends group, younger people and minority groups; set up working party to include the Friends, monitor progress of the plan through the Friends, promote as the valuable asset it is, to the local people and business community
Threats	Lack of staff to support all meetings and events; lack of available funding sources to promote the park and attract new and varied interest

<b>Marketing</b>	
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Strengths	The marketing plan has now been updated; leaflets have been produced; the Council's website continually improves; the site is very much a part of local history and a key environmental asset; opportunity through commitment to gaining Green Flag award
Weaknesses	Not being able to conduct user survey and count visitor numbers due to lack of staff resources; there is as yet no dedicated budget or staff time; valuable opportunity may thus be missed
Opportunities	To dedicate an amount of the advertising budget to the park; to include the park in other linked advertising about events, national, regional and local Inc. green flag website; staff to talk to visitors at every opportunity about what is on in the park; promote the uniqueness of the site; promote the site to as many new and diverse groups as possible
Threats	Lack of staff and funding to carry out the necessary research and promotions; budget concern re extra wear and tear on the site as a result of increased events and use; failure to achieve Green Flag status

<b>Management</b>	
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Strengths	Commitment of staff to achieve objectives in plan and to maintain the newly refurbished areas; work on the ground is beginning to relate to the changing needs; prioritise limiting budgets for maintenance; Green Flag status a priority; regular meetings held including all involved parties
Weaknesses	It takes time for a new or different regime to establish and prove itself; past performance in some areas has to be overcome and not allowed to influence the future or staff morale; loss of staff due to economic climate
Opportunities	Achieve a Green Flag award; access any appropriate further capital or revenue funding; increase staffing levels; increase events in the park; to increase visitor numbers and income; to comprehensively promote the site to the people of Arnold
Threats	Lack of commitment, staff/staff time, material resources, to forward objectives as planned



# Arnot Hill Park Action Plan 2022-2027 (Updated December 2022)

Aim 1: To Provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park.									
Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Improve Parks Signage.	Carry out complete audit of parks signage and action findings. Investigate the possibilities of new Interpretation Panels on the park.	PASC Manager	✓	○	■			Asset Management Bid	We continue to audit the parks signage and all our signage is as per our Disability Audit and a new Interpretation Panels reflecting Arnot Hill House, Twinning Garden and Mr Thomas Hawksley have now been delivered.
Ensure Equal 'Access for All'	Commission a new DDA Compliant Audit of the park to ensure previous recommendations where implemented and to identify any new requirements leading from the new report.	Park Development Officer	■	○				Existing Revenue Budgets	Building upon the DDA Compliance Access Audit of 2012, it is felt that a periodic review needs to be undertaken and address any actions that arise from the findings. This will now be commissioned in the new financial year beginning April 2023.
Ensure 'Play for All'	Carry out scoping and consultation exercise to identify if a Teenage Gym Equipment is needed and where the funding would come from.	Park Development Officer	X	■	○			Officer Time	Friends Of group where interested in investigating suitable teenage 'Gym Equipment' that could be commissioned for this age group. To date this has not been delivered partly due to Covid disrupting 'Friends Of' meetings.

## Aim 2: To Ensure the Park is Healthy, Safe & Secure.

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Ensure the park boundaries are in good condition, regularly assess and action.	Scheduled boundary inspections frequently and undertaken findings (Damages/Repairs).	PASC Development Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	The park boundaries are inspected annually and a program of works prepared to ensure all boundaries are in good repair.  Regular inspections carried out and repairs undertaken during 2022
Ensure the parks paths and roadways and car park surfaces are in good condition. No slip trip or fall hazards.	Continually review pedestrian safety in the park. Prune back shrubs to allow for good visibility.	PASC Development Officer & Parks Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets  Officer Time	The parks roadways and paths are inspected annually and a program of works prepared to ensure all paths are in good order.  Regular inspections carried out and repairs undertaken in 2022.
Ensure the park is safe and secure	Ensure the park is safe and secure	Regular Neighbourhood Warden, Police Community Support Officers & Ranger Patrols in the Park	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Staff Resources	Regular liaison with Police Community Officer

**Aim 2: To Ensure the Park is Healthy, Safe & Secure.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Reduce Anti-social behaviour	All acts of anti-social behaviour are monitored discussed and actioned	Community Safety Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets  Officer Time	Multi agency Community Safety meetings take place, where such activity is discussed and actioned.
Inspect all tree stocks to ensure they do not present a current or future hazard.	'Tree Condition' survey to be undertaken every 2/3 Years and additional in house inspections also undertaken and replacement trees planned.	PASC Manager & Parks Development Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets  Officer Time	As per the councils 'Tree Management Plan' a 'Condition Survey' of the parks trees was last undertaken in 2020 and all 'Actions' completed. Since this time a new 'Tree Officer' is in post and a lot of tree works as been undertaken in 2022 and consistent with our policies, new replacement trees are scheduled for planting during 2022/2023.
Ensure requirement of the HSAW Act 1974 are adhered to during all parks operations and activities.	Regular staff toolbox talks re Safety Issues and formal 'Health and Safety' training. Risk & COSHH Assessment of all operations and activities is carried out.	PASC Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets Officer time	Ensure Dynamic daily 'Risk Assessments' are done

**Aim 2: To Ensure the Park is Healthy, Safe & Secure.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Improve Parks Drainage	Periodically, inspect the Parks Drainage system and carry out identified repairs as required.	Technical Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets.	Annual inspection undertaken and drainage channels cleared in 2022
Ensure Pond Boundary railings are 'Safe and Secure'	Regular inspections by Rangers and Supervisors to highlight any repairs are carried out annually.	Technical Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets.	Monthly walkabout by Rangers and Supervisors highlight any issues. Minutes are distributed to relevant officers.
Promote use of park for commercial fitness initiatives and entrepreneurial businesses. Meeting KPI Target 1619-05-01 (Encourage participation in organised outdoor activities)	Work with business to develop park use for Boot Camp training exercise classes.	Parks Development Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Officer Time for Administration	1 business set up with lease agreements for Boot Camps. Income generation approx. £4k per annum.

**Aim 2: To Ensure the Park is Healthy, Safe & Secure.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
<p>Provide facilities and activities that encourage the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle for all.</p> <p>Meeting KPI target LI-365-SCET (Improve health and wellbeing – No. of outdoor activities/licenses) and</p> <p>KPI CR1619-08.11 (A range of Staff and Community environmental Volunteer Days)</p>	<p>Promote 'Well at Work' and Public initiatives like Environmental Volunteering to encourage utilisation of the parks open space.</p> <p>'3, 2, 1' Running route installed.</p>	<p>Exercise Promotions Officer from Leisure Services &amp; parks Rangers</p>	✓	○	■	■	■	<p>Existing Revenue Budgets Officer time</p> <p>All these initiatives are generally well attended, although Covid as meant that many staff now work from home for much off the week.</p> <p>Regular walking groups utilise the park and Environmental Volunteer sessions planned for 2023/2024 are still been run around the borough to encourage greater participation in the Parks and Open Spaces.</p>	

### Aim 3: To Provide a Well Maintained & Clean Park

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Provide a clean and well maintained park environment	Carry out a weekly inspection of the park by onsite staff and an immediate response to litter/vandalism	PASC Staff and Parks Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets Officer time	All offensive graffiti is cleaned off within 24hrs.
Clean public toilets	Open & Clean the public toilets for daily use.	PASC Staff, Facilities Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Ensure the toilets are in good repair and in running order.
Ensure cleanliness of Kiosk café	Confirm that the Café is fit for business and open to the public on a daily basis.	Kiosk Proprietor & PASC Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Ensure food hygiene certificate is displayed at all time.
Clean Children's Play Equipment	Inspect children's play equipment on a daily basis and undertake annual audit.	Audit Contractor and PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing revenue Budgets	Trained staff inspect the Play Area weekly and issues reported.
Empty and clean litterbins	Replace existing Waste Bins to improve customer satisfaction and reduce the need for daily litter picking.	PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Audit bins annually and replace worn out bins.

### Aim 3: To Provide a Well Maintained & Clean Park

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Provide clean and well maintained benches and seats.	Audit all benches and seats in the park with a view to implementing a rolling programme of maintenance	PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Nottinghamshire Community Pay Back personal have assisted in refurbishing the parks benches for a number of years and have refurbished several of the benches in 2022.
Provide a well maintained park environment	Grounds maintenance to be carried out to BS7370 and in accordance with the Landscape quality manual and method statements.	PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing revenue Budgets	Landscape Quality Manual and method statement as been reviewed in 2019.
Inform public of 'Emergency Contact' numbers	Provide contact numbers (Out Of Hours) to report litter, ASB, crime, and graffiti and any other concerns for the users of the park (In the Parks Notice Boards)	Public, PASC Staff & Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets Officer time	Additionally, promoting the use of Arnot Hill Park Facebook page will enable the public to report incidents and help parks staff maintain the park
Minimise the disposal of waste through reduction, re use, recycling and recovery.	Fixed recycling bins near Kiosk/Café location	Public, PASC Staff & Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Both facilities are now included in our routine maintenance of the park.

**Aim 3: To Provide a Well Maintained & Clean Park**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Explore future use of Aviary facility.	Carry-out 'Consultation and Feasibility' study as to the future use of the building.	Corporate Director Building Facilities Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Capital Budgets	<p>Unfortunately, Meetings between Parks Department, Estates and Nottingham Registrars to transform the aviary into a Wedding venue have not been successful.</p> <p>Possible 'Heritage Hub' was explored, but has been restricted by officer time and reduced budgets.</p> <p>Additionally, the last 'Corporate Director' had directed Economic Development to explore the use of the building as a 'Changing Places' facility. To date Economic Development are looking at this as a long-term project. More updated maybe available at inspection.</p>



### Aim 4: To Enhance the Sustainability of the Site

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Increase the Ecological Value of the park	EMEC Ecology Report commissioned in 2015 to help improve the Bio-Diversity of the park. Area identified within the park for wildflower meadow habitat creation.	Parks Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Open Grassland Meadow to include additional wildflower planting. Further expansions of native wildflower meadows have been undertaken. Recommendations from EMEC Ecology report are being investigated (EMEC Ecology Edited Report/Action Plan) and (Appendix – 4A)
Develop Tree Management Plan for the park to ensure the environmental sustainability of tree species within the park	Utilise tree species surveys to reflect good diversity of trees within the park	PASC Development Officer and Tree Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Draft document undertaken and a diverse range of both Native/Ornamental trees have replaced trees that have been felled.
To ensure environmental sustainability	Follow good Sustainable Horticultural Practices, such as minimizing peat use, approved sources of limestone etc.	PASC Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Environmentally friendly	Meeting sustainable Management Aims. We recycle All plastic plant pots, leaves and green waste
Meet Sustainable and Carbon Management 'Aims and Objectives'	Use of Electric Greens Mower for the parks bowling greens. Depot/Transport Officers looking at alternative vehicles.	PASC Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue and Transport Machinery Budgets	Reduce CO2 emissions Climate Officer in post.

## Aim 4: To Enhance the Sustainability of the Site

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Reduce CO2 emissions	Maintain solar panels on roof of council buildings within the Park	Facilities Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Reduction of CO2 Emissions	
Conserve water at Civic Centre and at the bowls pavilion	Continue to re-cycle water at Civic Centre and bowls pavilion	Facilities Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Rainwater collection from the roof used to flush all internal toilets	
Encourage Recycling	Explore possibility of further recycling within the park environment. Re-use of all chippings on site as mulch. Continue to operate onsite composting facility for parks green waste.	PASC and Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Consistent with this objective several shrub beds within the park have been mulched with chippings and all green waste is recycled via the local Simpro Green Waste facility.	
Encourage sustainable energy use	Maintain low LED wattage energy bulbs. Install passive infrared lighting. Ensure all electrical equipment is turned off after use, rather than being placed on standby.	PASC Manager Environmental champions	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue and Transport Machinery Budgets Reduce CO2 emissions. Partial council fleet replacement is underway.	

### Aim 4: To Enhance the Sustainability of the Site

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Sustainable sourcing of timber	Ensure all procured timber products met the requirement of the Forest Stewardship Council certification, or are from an accredited scheme supplier	PASC Officers & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	To benefit wildlife and biodiversity
Reduce environmental impact through transportation	Source all goods as locally as possible to reduce need of delivery transportation/shipping.	PASC Officers & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	To benefit wildlife and biodiversity
Minimise the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery	Leaf fall collected from Arnot Hill Park is distributed to local allotment sites around the Borough.	PASC Staff & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	To reduce landfill and aid the allotments.
Evaluate and monitor air, noise, water and land pollution, and influence others to reduce such pollution.	Herbicides, chemicals, paints and other materials are all COSHH regulated and usage is kept to a minimum.	PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	To protect the environment

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Monitor Bird Species inhabiting Arnot Hill Park	Bird Survey - Collate Information for national database on bird species in East Midlands Urban Area	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Undertake further 'Bird Species' monitoring.
To ensure appropriate management of conservation and heritage features and art installations	Maintain records of quality of park fabric to ensure it meets Green Flag Standards. Carry out monthly checks and record findings during park inspection. (PASC Supervisors and Parks Development).	Parks Development Manager	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Routine Inspection and Maintenance undertaken. Art installation Audit undertaken and actions identified. Appendix 5A – Art Installation Audit 2022. New Hawksley Plaque installed on Arnot Hill House.
Improve Bio-diversity of Park	Replenishing floating islands with native reeds and maintain island vegetation.	Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Improve biodiversity of 'Flora and Fauna' in the lake through ongoing maintenance program. Future work on both pond islands and reed beds are scheduled.  Work undertaken to improve the bio-diversity of the coppice of trees behind the 'Civic Centre', new species of trees added, native bulbs planted and Woodland seed mix introduced.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Formal Bedding/Perennial Planting	Continue to develop perennial planting schemes throughout the park.	Parks Development & Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	More sustainable, but vibrant herbaceous planting schemes; have been developed and the amount of formal bedding inclusive of baskets have been reduced
Flora and Fauna Audit	Complete a Flora and Fauna Audit of the park.	Parks Development & Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Human and Financial resources	The Park Rangers have prepared a species list, but like all documents this need reviewing. All tree planting on all the parks are recorded with size, species etc. recorded.
Replace/Rotate existing Art Installations	Continue a rolling programme of renewing the chainsaw sculptures and other artwork in the park. (Refresh the Youth Shelter and potentially, the Skateboard Bowl)	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Youth Shelter refreshed and Sensory Garden Wall in 2021. Local Youth Service and Community involved in brightening the wall in the Sensory Garden.  Youth Shelter may now need further attention and could be a project for 2023. And funding of new sculptures to be explored.
Refresh 'Arts Trail' within the park	Continue to increase Art objects in the park	Park Rangers Arts Development Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	'Arts Trail' Leaflet completed and web page updated by Arts Development Officer. Additional art pieces need exploring in 2023; Budget Dependant.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Develop and Maintain the green corridor to the rear of the park that was once the 'Old Railway' cutting into a Local Nature Trail.	Periodically, maintain the area and improve the wildflower biodiversity.	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Continue to monitor and improve area as and when resources permit. Many trees have been removed by the Tree Officer and new planting is scheduled for the winter of 2023. Local Tree Funding grant maybe secured to finance this project.
Annual status checks of Bird and Bat Boxes	Carry out annual inspection, cleaning and running repairs on all bat and bird boxes within the park within the remit of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981	PASC Man/Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Improve fabric and infrastructure of park elements
Continue to clean and maintain the War Memorial.	Carry out cleaning of memorial on an annual basis.	PASC Manager & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets £650	Ensure Memorial is prepared for Remembrance Sunday. Maintain wreaths as per War Memorial policy.
Interpret the History of Arnot Hill House	Commission a new interpretation panel to reflect the history of Arnot Hill House and Thomas Hawksley	Development Officer & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets £2,500	Educate the public regards the history of the house completed in 2019. Thomas Hawksley 'Blue Plaque' also now installed on house.

**Aim 5: To Conserve, Enhance and Promote the Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Value of the Park.**

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
To provide the public with an historical insight into Arnot Hill Parks.	To work with Arnold History Society and the 'Friends Of' group to provide an accurate historical picture of Arnot Hill Park.  Develop digital Historical Leaflet to be viewed by the public on GBC website.	Arts Development Officer and Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Many of events that have been held in recent years, reflect the park history with an occasional Brass Band playing outside the location of the former bandstand. The Council have been for some time engaging with Arnold History Society on Parks related projects and the group still do walks around the park to educate the public. The digital Historical Leaflet of the park is something that we will endeavour to do during 2023.
To maintain the Victorian fabric of Arnot Hill Park	To replace all of the Victorian post and chain fencing that gives Arnot Hill Park its character with recycled plastic posts.	Development Officer & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Some replacement work as been undertaken by local contractors, although the Rangers are looking to work alongside the Community Pay Back Team in 2023 to finish the overall of this project.
To provide additional 'Species' data	To employ EMEC Ecology to undertake additional species surveys to see how the habitat management is fairing.	Development Officer & Park Rangers	X	○				Existing Revenue Budgets	Budgets and lack of 'Officer' time have somewhat been squeezed just recently; due to other Council priorities. Budgets made available in April 2023 will see these surveys delivered.

## Aim 6: To develop the park as a Focus for the Local Community

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Encourage the local community involvement in the development and management of the park.	Support 'Friends of' meetings with regular attendance of staff. Involve 'The Friends' in planned development for the park	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Meetings regularly attended with 'Friends Of' group and future involvement of ward members where possible.
Increase 'Friends Of' group membership. Meeting KPI Target CRI 1619/08.09 (Increase the number of active volunteers by 5%).	Help to promote the group to increase awareness and membership	Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Group actively, promoted throughout the park and on social media to attract both practically minded volunteers and Committee Members.
Increase volunteers involvement in Parks and Open Spaces. .	Promote regular volunteers sessions throughout the boroughs parks.	Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Uptake across the Borough after Covid as seen volunteer hours reduced, although there is still a focus to provide volunteering opportunities and other bodies of students and Community Pay Backs Teams have helped bridge the gap..



## Aim 6: To develop the park as a Focus for the Local Community

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Identify wider community Involvement and use of the park. Meeting KPI Target LI-365-SCET (Improve health and wellbeing – No. of outdoor activities/licenses)	Carry out yearly surveys to identify wider community involvement in the park. Encourage private sector use of the park, i.e. exercise classes	Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Annual surveys undertaken and the public invited to become new members of the friends Of group.  One local fitness club is currently, using the park for Boot Camp type exercises (Annual Lease Agreement).
Provide opportunities for training of Friends Of group	Assist 'Friends Of' in fund raising by arranging a fund workshop. Health & Safety and safe use of equipment provided before all sessions,	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets	Tool box talks delivered prior to community environmental sessions.
Assist 'Friends Of' group via Marketing	'Friends Of' stall at Carnival and or future development of Facebook page. ,	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Try to encourage more members	Group actively, marketed within the park notice boards, on social media and at events. Unfortunately, the 'Carnival' is not a Council priority and smaller events are now being delivered.

## Aim 6: To develop the park as a Focus for the Local Community

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Encouraging local involvement. Meeting KPI Target 1619-05.01 (Encourage participation in organised outdoor activities)	Provide opportunities for schools/local people in new public planting schemes. New online booking form available for groups to express an interest.	Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing revenue budgets	Schools still be actively invited to participate in the boroughs parks and the Rangers have facilitated a number of requests recently.

## Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
To publicise the park through national initiatives such as Green Flag to raise the parks profile and build local awareness through events and activities	Implementation of existing Marketing Strategy. Post events on 'Green Flag' web site. Proposed calendared schedule of events is prepared annually.	Communication Officer Leisure Events and Arts Officer Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC & Leisure Revenue Budgets	A schedule of confirmed events for 23/24 will be promoted on the Green Flag Website/GBC Website and through the GBC's Contacts magazine. Whilst the Carnival is no longer being delivered an event is being planned for June.
Establish events linked to Cultural/Sport/Themes and National Initiatives.	Events held annually	Communication Officer Leisure Events and Arts Officer Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC & Leisure Revenue Budgets	Council undertook to replace the 'Carnival and Play Days' with more manageable events in line with budgets constraints  Continue to promote events on Green Flag website.
Establish events linked to environmental themes	Hold a number of junior environmental activities throughout the year with the support of partners like Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Woodland Trust.	Communication Officer Leisure Events and Arts Officer Parks Development & Park Rangers	■	○				Existing PASC & Leisure Revenue Budgets	Following Covid the Council priorities where to support local volunteers and as such, Junior Park Events may now be introduced once again following Covid restrictions; Like making bird and butterfly feeders and families are particularly, encouraged to participate with their children.

## Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Promote the park and its facilities	Achieve regular coverage in the local media, press, radio and television. Ensure notice board information is relevant and up to date.	Communication Officer Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC & Leisure Revenue Budgets	Extensively, promoted through many media platforms like BBC Radio Nottingham, East Midland Today & in the Nottingham Evening Post. Additionally, the park is now promoted through social media and the park as its own Facebook page.
Promote all the Boroughs Parks, Allotments, Cemeteries and Greenspaces	Continue to update the Councils Parks & Open Spaces web section. Improve all information and links to relevant partners for events and keep up to date.	Communication Officer Parks Development & Park Rangers	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets	Ensure all events are promoted on the website, with links to the Parks 'Friends Of' web page and promote
Deliver the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy	Prioritise and Action the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy to provide good quality open space provision.	Leisure Officer And PASC Manager & Development	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing Revenue Budgets £12,000	Steering Group established to review the strategy and to establishing new priorities. Draft being prepared 2020.

## Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in Progress ■ = Action Proposed X = Action not Completed						
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Revise and Upgrade the Parks Website Page	Work with the Communication Team to provide the best visual experience for all park Users.	Communication and Parks Development Officer Park Rangers & Arts Development Officer	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets Officer Time	Rangers and Parks Development Officer periodically engage with the Communications Team to Improve the Intellectual content of the Parks Webpage. Much work as now be done to improve the parks pages and especially, the Green Flag Parks.
To re-develop the Tree Trail and its literature	To work with communications on developing either a new Tree Trail Leaflet or Digital Interpretation.	Communication and Parks Development Officer Park Rangers	■	○				Existing PASC Revenue Budgets Comms. Team.	Some of the existing mature trees that featured on the original leaflet have now been lost and such, do not reflect the better trees left in the park.

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Ensure a viable short-term financial base for maintenance and development	Continue to attract capital funding for improvement through section 106 and external funding bodies such as Gedling Homes and 'Veolia Environmental Grants'.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue & Capital Budgets. 106 contributions	Update the 106 database so as to record capital bids at the earliest opportunity. Be mindful of grant monies that may be drawn down by the 'Friends Of' group.
Ensure a viable long-term financial base for maintenance and development	Consider long-term management in all works and factor in costing's where available	PASC manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets	In conjunction with the new Parks & Open Spaces strategy. Identify areas for future 106 and other projects
Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – (Quality Assessment)	Review management practices to ensure efficient working methods	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets	Efficiencies due to ongoing future budget reductions.

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – (Income Streams)	Explore Opportunities for revenue generation (E.g Hiring Pavilion and regular private sector use of parks.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	PASC Manager Parks Development Officer	Income from concessions, hire of park (kiosk Lease), plus Registry Office/wedding Venue.
Ensure effective implementation of Management Plan – Identify current and future priorities.	Monthly site walkabouts established with PASC Manager, Parks development Officer, Rangers and PASC Supervisors. Members of the Friends Of group, GBC Staff and other stakeholders to monitor progress and identify outstanding priorities.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets	Monthly meetings between Parks Development/Park rangers to progress current and future delivery of tasks.

## Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

Objectives	Action	Lead	Delivery					Resources	Comments
			YEAR 22/23	YEAR 23/24	YEAR 24/25	YEAR 25/26	YEAR 26/27		
Ensure the effective implementation of Management Plan – (Green Flag Preparation)	Annual review of Management and Actions Plans to determine progress.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets	Periodic meetings to discuss the parks 'management Plan' to ensure sections are reviewed on a rolling basis and updated as the year progresses.
Ensure effective implementation of Management Plan (Partnership Working)	Regular meetings between parks staff, neighbourhood teams, communities and PASC projects. Officer to discuss progress.	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer Rangers, PASC Staff	✓	○	■	■	■	Existing PASC Revenue Budgets	Encourage and develop effective partnership working practices.



## **FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

### **Grant Funding - Heritage Lottery**

Other than yearly revenue funding to the tune of approximately £40,000, the park has benefited from £78,000 from S106 and £50,000 from WREN to refurbish the play area. Nottingham County Council Local Improvement Scheme also contributed in the region of £30,000 and the 'Friends Of' Secured £10,000 for Awards for All'.

Historically, The Heritage Lottery Fund of £750,000 and a capital funding lump sum of £250,000 from Gedling Borough Council in the last few years. This grant has contributed substantially to the revitalisation of the park with major work being carried out to the lake, building of the kiosk/toilet block; new children's play area, skate park and new planting around the park

### **Revenue Funding**

The breakdown of the Maintenance and Management Revenue budgets required for the park is available on request from Parks and Street Care Services and will be available during the field assessment.

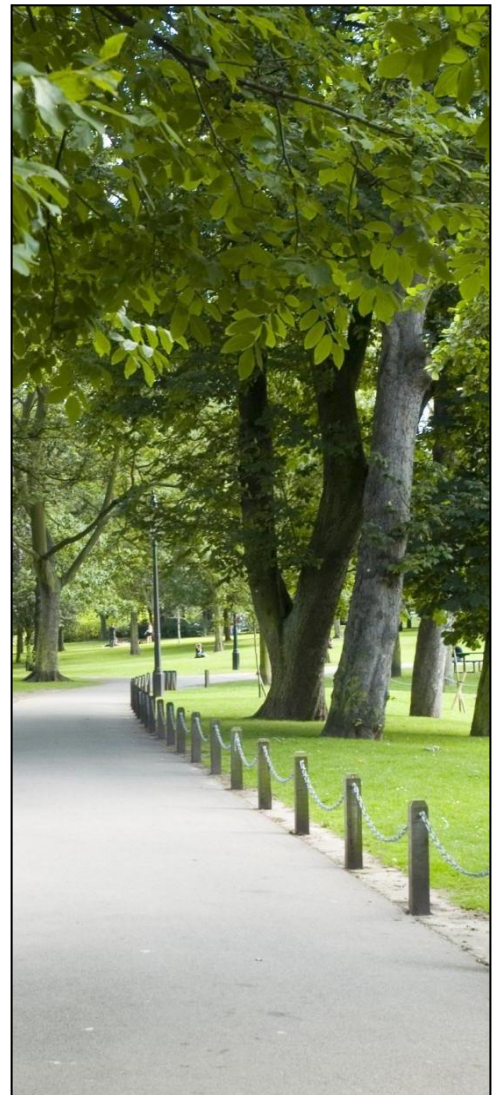
### **Staffing Structure**

The parks development function is controlled by the Parks and Street Care Services section. The manager is assisted by the Parks Development Officer and 2 full time Urban Park Rangers.

Parks and Street Care also control the Grounds Maintenance function.

### **Work Programme**

The Grounds maintenance specification and work programme are available from Parks and Street Care Services and will be available during the field assessment or on request.



## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

An annual review of the Management Plan and, in particular, its Action Plan will take place each September. This review will contain an evaluation of the operational progress against set targets. The results of this review will inform the Parks and Street Care Service Plan. The process allows an opportunity to assess current revenue and capital funding.

The exercise allows additions to the regular scheduled work program and allows for the early alteration of the Urban Park Rangers' and Friends Group work programs.

Although the plan will be reviewed annually, it will be comprehensively revised every 3 years to ensure its content remains relevant and up to date with the Council's policies, vision and objectives.



**The Sensory Garden showing the recently re-planted Circular Bed**

## PLANS FOR 2023/2024

As outlined in the Action Plan, with the aid of the 'Friends Of' group, local partners, volunteers and local council members it is the intention to continue to improve the park and as such, provide opportunities for as many local schools, volunteers and patrons to access the site.

Significantly we will endeavour to undertake consultation in respect of teenage facilities, re-develop the Tree Trail to reflect the changes that have occurred to our tree stock, continue to work with Arnold Local History Society reflecting the parks heritage and hold events where budget is available.

We will also develop partnership working with groups like the Woodland Trust and wherever possible accomplish the proposals outlined by EMEC Ecology Report. A 'Disability Access Audit' to ensure that we are fully compliant will also be undertaken and we will continue to work to with the 'Friends Of' Arnot Hill Park and support volunteer opportunities.

As mentioned previously, an events programme has somewhat been diminished but plans are in place to deliver some form of activity during 2023. Discussions with 'Communities' colleagues suggest that we will hold a Picnic in the Park style event in June and complemented by minor events throughout the year. These will be publicised through the Gedling Borough Council Website and Green Flag websites, plus Facebook as information becomes finalised.

Suggestions or comments regarding Arnot Hill Park events, facilities and future developments would be most welcome and may be forwarded to:

Gedling Borough Council  
Parks & Street Care Section  
Direct Services  
Jubilee House  
Nottingham Road  
Daybrook  
Nottingham  
NG5 6LU

Parks and Open Spaces Development Team:

Mr Melvyn Cryer  
Head of Environment [melvyn.cryer@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:melvyn.cryer@gedling.gov.uk)

Mrs Jane Richardson  
Parks Development Officer [jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk)

# APPENDICES




## APPENDIX 1: HEALTH & SAFETY AND SAMPLE INCIDENT REPORT

### FORM HS 2 RISK ASSESSMENT - HAZARDS AND CONTROL MEASURES

Service Area	Direct Services	Section	Parks and Street Care	Manager	Melvyn Cryer
Activity No.	1	Activity Description	Rangers to clear the islands within Arnot Hill Park pond, and to hold a controlled fire to destroy the green waste.	Activity Location	Arnot Hill Park

No	Nature of Hazard	Risks	Severity Number	Exposure Number	Risk Number
1	Contact with fire	Minor/serious burns, inhalation of smoke	6	1	6
2	Control of fire	Fire spreading to wider areas and not being controlled	6	1	6
3	Slips, trips and falls	Physical injuries,	3	1	3
4	Contact with water body	Wet clothing, hypothermia, drowning	9	1	9
5	Adverse Weather Conditions	Wet clothing, illness Sunburn or hypothermia	3	1	3
6	Contact Injuries	Physical injuries,	3	1	3

No	Current control methods in place to reduce the risk number	Severity Number	Exposure Number	Risk Number
1	Fire retardant clothing to be worn whilst undertaking this work, team is to be aware of surrounding at all times, and be able to see each other and the fire without obstacles in the way, first aid kit to be readily available, mobile phones to be on hand, supervisors and managers to be aware of the works being undertaken, appropriate PPE to be worn	4	1	5
2	Fire to be contained within a 1m radius in the centre of the island, surrounding water body will prevent spreading of fire	4	1	4
3	Ground inspection. PASC staff to inspect all areas. Make sure working areas are easy to access, on level ground and no vertical obstructions. First aiders on site	2	1	2
4	Rangers to wear life jackets and to take extra precautions when working close to the water, no lone working is to be undertaken	6	1	6
5	Cancel activity if severe weather conditions, advised to wear sensible outdoor clothing for activity.	2	1	2
6	Rangers trained in safe use of tools and safe personal working space.	2	1	2

Manager	Melvyn Cryer	Signature		Date	18/12/21
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**Is further action still required? If Yes, continue overleaf If No, complete the first review box overleaf**

Yes		No	✓
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## OUTSTANDING SIGNIFICANT RISKS

No.	Significant Risk	Significant Risk Required Action To Reduce Risk	Person Accountable	Target Date	Date Complete

**All Action has now been taken to reduce the significant risks listed above**

<b>MANAGER</b>		<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
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**REVIEW DATES** (To be completed annually or when the activity changes in any way)

<b>MANAGER</b>		<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
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**Accident / Incident Investigation Report Form.**

**Part 1: a Council Officer / First Aider complete the first two parts, and if applicable with the Injured Person (IP).**

Reported by:	GRANT JLETT.	Injured Person's Name (IP) Person's Involved	Date of Birth:
Location of incident: Address/Postcode	CNTR CENTRE ARNOT HILL PARK NOTHS.	IP address	
Witness address / contact details:	N/A	Contact details: Phone Email:	H.E.S.
Vehicle Registration (if applicable)	N/A	Service Area	
Date:	13/1/17	Crew No. (if applicable)	N/A.
Time of event:	19:00.	Normal working hours:	
Union Rep Consulted / Informed:	N/A.	Actual Hours worked:	N/A.
		IP Line Manager's Name:	

Incident details (what, where, when, who, why, emergency measures taken, result of unsafe act e.g. horseplay /unsafe condition e.g. defective equipment, condition of the location, actions staff took, witness statements, use continuation sheet if necessary)

- If there was an injury, how did it occur and what caused it?
- What injuries or ill health effects if any were caused?
- If there was an injury, how did it occur and what caused it?
- Was the safety equipment insufficient? Other conditions that influenced event?

Slip hazard notified to the HES officer  
Oil Spillage on steel park roadway and  
Arnot Hill car Park.

(Tick box when applicable)

- Sent Home
- GP referral **N/A**
- Attended hospital
- Detained in hospital
- Accident book entry (Employee only)

Name of first aider (if applicable): **N/A.**

PPE in use at time of incident : High Vis Garment  Safety Footwear  Ear Protection  Hard Hat

Other specify  **N/A.**

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Part 2 - Initial Assessment (to be carried out by Council officer / first aider )			
(When applicable) Were the police called? Incident / crime number: <span style="float: right;">N</span>			
Was injured person entitled to be....		Where he/she was? <span style="float: right;">AY/N</span>	
		Doing what he/she was doing? <span style="float: right;">Y/N</span>	
Part of body	Nature of injury	Type of accident	Sub event type
1. Head / Nose / Neck 2. Ear (left/right) 3. Mouth / chin 4. Eye (s) left/right 5. Shoulder / Arm (left/right) 6. Hand / Finger / wrist (left/right) 7. Back 8. Chest /Abdomen 9. Groin 10. Leg (left/right) 11. Knee / Ankle (left/right) 12. Foot (left/right) 13. Toe(s) left/right 14. Spine	1. Abrasion 2. Allergic reaction 3. Bite 4. Biological 5. Bruise 6. Burn 7. Concussion 8. Cut 9. Fracture 10. Foreign body 11. Impact injury 12. Nose bleed 13. Puncture 14. Shock 15. Sprain/Strain 16. Swelling 17. Sting 18. Other/state:	1. Accident 2. Ill Health 3. Near Miss 4. Undesired circumstance/ <u>hazard</u> 5. RIDDOR reportable 6. Violence 7. Accidental/ Criminal damage	1. Anti-social behaviour 2. DSE/workstation related 3. Electrical 4. Exposure /contact harmful substance 5. Fire 6. Inflatable (Internal/External) – delete as app 7. Manual Handling (lifting, pushing, pulling, carrying) 8. Mechanical handling 9. Machinery 10. Near miss 11. Pre –Existing condition (i.e. varicose veins) 12. Poor water quality 13. Pressure vessel 14. Road Traffic collision 15. Safeguarding (child protection) 16. Slip, Trip, Fall 17. Sports Participating 18. Strike Moving object 19. Strike Fixed/Stationary object 20. Swimming 21. Swimming club 22. Swimming lessons (issues including: instructor, payment - unauthorised swim/no-credit, poor behaviour, lack of supervision, administration error) 23. Theft 24. Other/state:
			Slip Risk . <span style="float: right;">311A</span>
Name of Council Officer / person completing form:		Grant Helt.	
Position: <i>less officer.</i>		Date: <i>13/1/17.</i>	
Contact details of Council Officer / person completing form:		<i>Ext 3940.</i>	

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**PART 3 - a Supervisor/ line manager completes the initial investigation and gathers information for the event.**

<b>Reoccurrence potential for harm level:</b>	Fatal	Major	Serious	Minor	Damage only
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To work out the investigation level refer to the guidance (pages 5-7)

<b>Investigation level:</b>	High level	High level	Medium level	Low level	Low level	Basic level
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Investigation to be completed within 48 hours of the event (SFARP)

Initial assessment carried out by	Paul Terry/Gillett	Date	13/1/17
Further investigation required?	Y/N	Investigation level required: (delete)	High/Medium/Low/Basic
Investigating officer:	N/A		

**PART 3 – Immediate causes (examples) – circle most appropriate**

Substandard action	Substandard equipment/condition	Personal factors
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating equipment without authority</li> <li>Operating equipment when not fully trained</li> <li>Defective equipment</li> <li>Failure to use PPE correctly</li> <li>Unsafe position</li> <li>Improper lifting/ placing</li> <li>Horseplay</li> <li>Removing safety devices</li> <li>Using equipment incorrectly</li> <li>Under influence of alcohol/ drugs</li> <li>Failure to secure/ lock off</li> <li>Operating at improper speed</li> <li>Failure to warn</li> <li>Bomb threat (IED, letter, etc)</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate guarding</li> <li>Defective guarding</li> <li>Inadequate warning system</li> <li>Incorrect PPE provided</li> <li>Defective equipment</li> <li>Defective tool</li> <li>Fire and explosion hazards</li> <li>Noise exposures</li> <li>Poor housekeeping</li> <li>Congestion or restricted access</li> <li>Inadequate lighting</li> <li>Hazardous conditions e.g. gas/ dust/ fumes/ vapours/icy condition/hot environment</li> <li>Inadequate ventilation</li> <li>Hazardous arrangement/ design</li> <li>Water quality management</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ol> <p>Spillage = Slippery Surface likely cause - defective vehicle</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical defects</li> <li>Mental defect</li> <li>Improper attitude/ motivation</li> <li>Existing medical condition</li> <li>Injury occurred outside of work</li> <li>Stress (not work related)</li> <li>Stress (work related)</li> <li>Verbally abusive to injured person/staff member</li> <li>Physical harm to IP</li> <li>Other specify</li> </ol>

**Are any of the following actions required to support the report?**

**NB. If this involves an injured employee you should always attach the risk assessment and NOP/Method statement for the activity they were conducting when injured**

Photos/ sketches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Copies Risk assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Copies of Safe systems of work(NOP's)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Copies of Training Records	<input type="checkbox"/>	Witness Statements taken? Use template	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**PART 3 continued. A Supervisor/ line manager completes this section**

**1. Was there anything unusual or different about the working / environment conditions?**  
*i.e. shape of object, layout, design, nature of materials, was there difficulties operating plant/equipment, unknown risk. Was there a slip, mistake, lapse of an employee/other person?*

No / Yes (if YES, explain why) or mark as N/A

N/A

**2. Were there adequate safe working procedures and were they followed?**

Yes or No (if no, explain why not?) or mark as N/A

N/A

**3. Was the maintenance, inspection and cleaning sufficient?**

Yes or No (if no, explain why not?) or mark as N/A

N/A

**3. Were the people involved competent to do the job?**

Yes or No (if no, explain why not?) or mark as N/A

N/A

**4. Managers briefly summarise action taken / explain the immediate underlying & root cause/s (when applicable)**

Cause unknown / unconfirmed, likely a defective vehicle.

Kevin McGuinness informed via mobile. RASC Response team sent to investigate & spread sand over the affected area.

**5. What risk control measures are needed /recommended? (if any or mark as N/A)**

1. Sand Application.

2. CCRAS Reps / couns informed of issue.

3.

4.

**6. Do similar risks/ trends exist elsewhere? If so what and where? And inform them**

If no continue to Q7 or Yes. Explain here action taken

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**Part 4 – Line Managers / Service Managers are responsible for this parts completion.**

**7. Which risk control measure should be implemented in the long and short term? (are there gaps in your workplace that need addressing?)**

Control Measure required	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1. Sand Application.	13.1.17.	Neil McGr.
2. CHAS Rep/Officer feedback	13.1.17	Graeme I.
3.		
4.		

**8. Which risk assessment and safe working procedure needs to be reviewed and updated?**


Name of risk assessment NOP/Operating procedure	Completion Date	Person Responsible
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

N/A.

**9. Adverse event cost? (Officer time investigating, equipment damage, approx. cost £)**

officer time Responding Vehicle Sand.

**10. Signed on behalf of investigation team (i.e. investigating supervisor/ line manager etc)**

Name	Position	Date
	H&S officer.	13/1/17.


**11. Members of the investigation team (or mark N/A)**

Name	Position
<del>N/A</del>	

**12. The findings of this investigation need to be communicated to**

Name	Position	Date
As above control measure		

**13. Authorising Countersignature (Service Manager/ Corporate Director)**

Name	Position	Date
	H&S.	13/1/17

**Now send the completed report to the safety officer (incl. Attachments when applicable)**

H&S central administration (Audit and Risk Technician/ Safety Officer) ONLY complete this section

Incident Report Form received from Service Area	Date: 13/1/17
Is an EPR report form required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, Line Manager to complete form)

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## APPENDIX 2A – JUDGES FEEDBACK

### Green Flag Award 2021

Name of Site: Arnot Hill Park

Managing Organisation: Gedling Borough Council

Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and Supporting Documentation)



Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions
<b>Presentation</b>	The plan is well presented has a clear structure and detailed contents page and supporting appendices.	The contents page comes after 12 pages of endorsements, plans and other information. This is a little confusing and it would be better if all this sat behind the contents page. Also the plan details how the plan will be reviewed but it would benefit from a change register in which all the plan changes can be noted and highlighted each year.	Certainly, every attempt is made to address the structure of the Management Plan and the endorsements will now be positioned after the Contents Page.  A change 'Register' is something the Parks Development team are considering.
<b>Maintenance of equipment, buildings &amp; landscape</b>	The Plan details the Grounds maintenance landscape and building maintenance with further details in the appendix.		

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions
<b>Litter, cleanliness, vandalism</b>	The plan details the of the Parks position regarding litter and ASB with additional information within the appendix		
<b>Environmental Management</b>	Environmental management is well discussed with the plan. Details include use of pesticides peat use, waste minimisation and the use of recycled materials.	It would be useful to be clearer about your pesticide usage policy.	<p>More clarity of the Pesticide usage policy will be outlined in the current revision of the Management Plan, but to briefly summarise the Council elected to ban the use of Glysohate on all our Green Spaces and look for a more bee friendly alternative.</p> <p>The council have been trialling a range of methods and biocides to supress weeds in undesirable locations (tank mix of Katoun Gold with Chikara and New Way Weed Spray', MAPP No. 15319). This is ongoing and recommendations for the best way forward are still being identified.</p>
<b>Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage</b>	Details are provide re the wildflower area that have been created, tree planting, habitat areas.	The Building and Heritage section would benefit from a more detailed summary of the sites historic importance. The plan needs updating to confirm the reuse of the aviary.	Given the judges feedback the Management Plan will be reviewed to consider the historic importance of the site. The reuse of the aviary, lies with the Senior Leadership Team and Economic Development who are exploring a funding application for the building to become a 'changing Places, facility. Economic Development have now stated that costs associated with this project would be extensive and something that would be long-term objective.

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions
<b>Community Involvement</b>	The plan contains a good summary of the community activity on the Park including details re the events programme and the work of the Ranger and the Friends Group.		
<b>Marketing &amp; Communication</b>	The plan contain a good summary of the marketing activity that's backed up with a more detailed Marketing plan in the appendix		
<b>Overall management</b>	The plan contains a detailed summary of the Parks management with clear objectives identified partners and links to wider policy framework.		
<p><b>Additional Comments</b> - In general the plan is well structured and detailed. Just a few additions and amendments as detailed have been recommended. That said the plan has been in continued revision since 2006 and is now scheduled to be revised again at the end of this year. Consider taking this opportunity to completely refresh and update the plan so it sets out a clear vision and a new action plan for the next 5 years.</p>			

## Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and Supporting Documentation) - Continued

### Field Assessment

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	The Park has a good entrance welcoming signage and well-presented main entrance and carpark area.		
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	<p>The Park has good open view in most areas and is very well used by the community which provides lots of surveillance within the Park.</p> <p>The park is also covered by CCTV and it has a regular staff presence and lots of visitors.</p>		
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>	The Park was clean and well maintain.	The Park is heavily used and frequented by Dog walkers and whilst Dog Fouling wasn't excessive it was present in several areas of the Park. Consider reinforcing the responsible Dog ownership campaign.	A Dog Fouling awareness campaign is planned during the Council's 'Week of Environmental Clean-up events' during 4 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March. A further campaign is being planned for the similar national initiative promoted by Keep Britain Tidy later in the Spring.

## Field Assessment Feedback (Continued)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions
<b>Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage</b>	The Park has created a new habitat area at the back of the Park and has bird boxes and habitat piles.	Plans need to be confirmed regarding the reuse/regeneration of the old aviary.	As mentioned above our Economic Development Team, are investigating the change of use to a 'Changing Places' facility. This may be a long-term aspiration and something which, the Council may take time to deliver.
<b>Community Involvement</b>	The Parks has plenty of community activities and involvement from the Parks Friends Group.		
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>	The Park has some new sculpture that are great and really help to promote the sites history of the Park		
<b>Management</b>	The Park is well maintained in good condition and well used by the community.		
<p><b>Additional Comments</b> - Taking into account the overall management plan and operational management of the Park it is clear to see that there is evidence of ongoing improvement and community engagement. The Park has a great variety of facilities and is well maintained. It is good to see that the park has continued to improve and remains a very popular destination park. I therefore have no hesitation in recommending Arnot Hill Park for a Green Flag Award in 2021/22.</p>			



## APPENDIX 3A – EMEC ECOLOGY ACTION PLAN AND EDITED RECOMMENDATIONS (2018-2022)

<b>EMEC Ecology Action Plan (2018-2024)</b>			
<b>Proposals</b>	<b>Current Actions</b>	<b>2023 Future Actions</b>	<b>2024 Future Actions</b>
<p>The creation of wildflower meadows within the amenity grassland areas is recommended.</p>	<p>To date we have created a small meadow at the top of the park using an 80%Grass/20% Wildflower mix from Naturescape. This meadow was also under-planted with a number of native wildflower bulbs to extend the season of interest. Additional small plantations of wildflowers have also been sown opposite this area and tolerant wildflower plugs and bulbs planted beneath trees to the rear of the Civic Centre.</p> <p>Several of these small Wildflower Plantations have been over sown this autumn (2022) to encourage more flowering.</p>	<p>Several areas to the rear of the park have been transformed from Amenity Grassland to Open Grassland Meadows in 2015. It is envisaged that several other small sections will either be sown or planted with wildflowers plugs to enrich the area.</p> <p>With the assistance of Volunteers and Community Pay Back a number of clumps will be split and transplanted into these areas.</p>	<p>Building upon the recommendations of EMEC Ecology further small strips of meadows maybe developed in more shaded areas along the ridge of the Nature Trail. As before only locally sourced seed or plugs from Naturescape will be used.</p>

### EMEC Ecology Action Plan (2018-2022)

Proposals	Current Actions	2023 Future Actions	2024 Future Actions
<p>Enhancement of the lake for amphibians is recommended. The creation of gently sloping banks and shallow areas with plenty of vegetation along the western margin would also benefit aquatic invertebrates.</p>	<p>There have been several attempts over the years to address this particular recommendation; without any success. Whilst we have considered the recommendations of EMEC Ecology to develop the Western bank of the lake, it has always been our intention to develop the North East corner. We have begun clearing this area of unwanted vegetation and removing the Alder's. Lack of human resources have hindered this project, as two rangers have left during this time.</p>	<p>Further development of the north eastern corner of the lake are envisaged and that we will be finally, able to complete this development and plant it with native vegetation this spring.</p> <p>We have discussed this project with the Community Pay Back Team and envisage that we can complete this work when new budgets are available.</p>	<p>Future enhancement of the lake will be undertaken as appropriate and when budgets allow.</p>
<p>Artificial hibernacula (rubble, logs and loose soil partly buried) could be created both close to the enhanced area of the lake and within the edge of the plantation woodland.</p>	<p>No such artificial hibernacula (rubble, logs and loose soil partly buried) exist in the park.</p>	<p>We will be creating this habitat in 2023.</p>	<p>.</p>

### EMEC Ecology Action Plan (2018-2024)

Proposals	Current Actions	2023 Future Actions	2024 Future Actions
Additional bat boxes and bird boxes could be erected on site. We would recommend that a variety of different types of boxes are used to provide habitat for a greater diversity of species.	To date there a number of both Bird and Bat Boxes are located throughout the park. Having considered the proposals of EMEC Ecology the Rangers have over the years run a British Trust for Ornithology/National Nest Box Event in February Half-term with local families and as such, some new boxes have been erected (Number of styles of boxes have erected to attract a more diverse range of nesting birds).	More BTO events maybe run when time and resources allow and at which, time we intend to build more Bat Boxes.	Consideration will be given to running a similar events.
Invertebrate boxes/artificial habitats could be installed on site.	To date no such Invertebrate boxes/artificial habitats have been installed on site.	The Rangers propose introducing a range of invertebrate boxes around the park. Utilising where appropriate children to help make these boxes at Ranger led events during the summer.	

### EMEC Ecology Action Plan (2018-2024)

Proposals	Current Actions	2023 Future Actions	2024 Future Actions
<p>Various further ecological surveys could be carried out at the park, for example: The new wildflower areas could be surveyed in the second or third year following creation to enable a species list to be created. These areas could be monitored over time to see how they develop and to ensure management is on track.</p>	<p>Whilst some minor ecology surveying has been undertaken with the assistance of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and OPAL these recommendations require additional resources to be met.</p>	<p>To ensure that the management of these areas remain on track EMEC Ecology will be commissioned during 2023/2024, as budgets allow to carry out more surveys.</p>	
<p>Bat activity surveys could be carried out to determine the presence of any bat roosts within the park and to see what level of bat activity the park currently supports. The bat boxes could be inspected on a bi-annual basis to see if they are occupied (or have been occupied in the past).</p>	<p>During the past few years a number of Bat Walks undertaken by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and South Nottinghamshire Bat Group have established that at least four species of Bats reside on Arnot Hill Park and that many of the Bat Boxes have had bats roosting within them.</p>	<p>The Rangers have already committed their partners (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and South Nottinghamshire Bat Group) to undertaking a Bat Walk when available. Bi-annual inspection of the Bat Boxes would need to be undertaken by a licensed inspector. Rangers to investigate if South Nottinghamshire Bat Group would undertake these inspections on our behalf.</p>	<p>Additional Bat walks/surveys walks will actioned in line with availability of South Nottinghamshire Bat Group and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.</p>

**EMEC Ecology Action Plan (2018-2024)**

<b>Proposals</b>	<b>Current Actions</b>	<b>2023 Future Actions</b>	<b>2024 Future Actions</b>
<p>General bird surveys could be carried out to determine which bird species are using the site. The bird boxes on site could also be inspected during the bird nesting season to see if they are occupied.</p>	<p>Over a number of years a large survey of the birds species inhabiting or spotted flying overhead on the park has been carried out and now forms part of Arnot Hill Park 'Bird Species' list. To date 72 species of birds or wildfowl have been recorded and added to the British Trust for Ornithology Website.</p>	<p>It is envisaged that the Rangers will continue to engage with local bird groups and members of the public to gather this important data for the British Trust for Ornithology.</p>	

## APPENDIX 3A - ART INSTALLATION AND LECTERN AUDIT (2022)

Art Work Installation (Condition and Safety Audit)		
<b>Arnot Hill</b>	<b>Inspected By Michael Procter</b>	<b>Date – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022</b>
<b>Art Piece</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Apple Core Sculpture</b>	This sculpture seems to be stable, but is showing signs of decaying	Probably as another year before it will need removing.
<b>Heron Sculpture (Island)</b>	Sculptures out of Horse Chestnut, the sculpture is still trying to regenerate and needs a trim to be seen at best affect. Some decay is now present, but probably as two/three years.	The whole sculpture could do with cleaning and further preservative being applied in due course.
<b>Story Telling Zone</b>	All the pieces are I good condition and no action is needed.	No Action needed.
<b>Aviary Artwork</b>	Some of the artwork had become and the marine plywood at the base of some of these pieces had started to delaminate. Renovation work was undertaken by the artist in 2019, but long-term this will need replacing if the aviary is refurbished for another use.	No Action needed at present, but ultimately a decision will be needed.
<b>Skateboard Bowl</b>	Much of the paintwork is now worn and as such, the design is not looking its best.	Skateboard users have often been divided about painting the bowl. Discuss at Parks Development Meeting the potential of Refurbishing the design.
<b>Ceramics (Rose Garden)</b>	Most of the ceramics still exist and are in good condition. Some pieces unfortunately, have been lost.	Check existing pieces periodically To ensure they are firmly attached to wall

## Art Work Installation (Condition and Safety Audit - Continued)

Arnot Hill	Inspected By Michael Procter	Date – 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
Art Piece	Evaluation	Actions
<b>Sensory Garden Mosaic</b>	Generally still in good condition, but some tiles have been removed. Artist undertook minor repairs in 2019 and installed the new 'Twinning Garden' mosaic.	No further action needed at present, but needs monitoring.
<b>Sensory Garden Artwork</b>	The original mural and children's artwork was removed and a new painting painted as part of an event in 2021.	Summer workshop proved successful in brightening the wall and hasn't seen any graffiti since being painted. No Action needed at this time.
<b>Willow Sculptures Sensory Garden</b>	Still in good order after refurbishment of willow weave.	No action needed at present.
<b>Youth Shelter Graffiti Artwork</b>	Much of the last design as now been tagged within the shelter and As such, may needing a refresh if budgets allow.	To be discussed at the Parks Development meeting in due course
<b>Stone Sculptures (Nature Trial)</b>	Generally, in good condition.	May need a good clean at some point.
<b>Friends Of Bench (Nature Trial)</b>	Generally, in good condition	Treat with Linseed Oil during summer 2023
<b>Oak Sleeper Sculpture (Nature Trial)</b>	Generally, in good condition.	Some minor graffiti could be removed. Treat with Linseed Oil summer 2023
<b>Oak Sleeper Sculpture (Nature Trial)</b>	Generally, in good condition.	Some minor graffiti could be removed. Treat with Linseed Oil summer 2023

## Art Work Installation (Condition and Safety Audit - Continued)

Arnot Hill Park	Inspected By Michael Procter	Date – 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
Art Piece	Evaluation	Actions
<b>Bridge Mural (Nature Trail)</b>	Having been refurbished in 2019 the mural is in good condition and the graffiti coating is serving its purpose.	No Action needed.
<b>Miners Head (Nature Trail)</b>	Generally, in good condition	Treat with Linseed Oil during summer 2023.
<b>Oak Sleeper Sculpture (Nature Trail)</b>	Generally, in good condition although there is some evidence of wear.	Treat with Linseed Oil during summer 2023.
<b>Hawksley Sculpture</b>	Generally, in good condition.	The dedicated panels embossed in stainless could do with the writing Embellishing so they can be read more clearly.



<b>Lectern Condition and Safety Audit</b>		
<b>Arnot Hill Park</b>	<b>Inspected By Michael Procter</b>	<b>Date – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022</b>
<b>Lectern/Sign</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>Railway Cutting Lectern (Nature Trail)</b>	Generally, this lectern is prime condition having been replaced with a recycled plastics alternative.	No Action Needed.
<b>Hawksley Lectern</b>	Still in good order.	No Action Needed.
<b>Arnot Hill House</b>	Generally, this lectern is prime condition having been recently installed.	No action Needed.
<b>Twinning Garden Lectern</b>	Being a new lectern the condition is good.	No action Needed.
<b>Pond Lecterns (Lake)</b>	Still in good order, although the graphics of both of these lecterns were only replaced recently.	No real action needed, other than a good clean and or replacing the protective sheeting.
<b>Meadow Lectern (Top of Park)</b>	Generally, this lectern is still in good condition, the graphics are still clear and have not been unduly defaced	No action needed other than a good clean.
<b>Front Entrance Lectern</b>	Still in good order.	No action needed other than a good clean.

## APPENDIX 5A – Arnot Hill Park Marketing Strategy 2017-2026

**Aim:** To produce an effective marketing campaign that will encourage present and new visitors into the park to fill their leisure hours. It will promote the strong commitment that the Council has to its parks and open spaces, shown not least by its recent investment in Burton Road Jubilee Park. These marketing actions are built into the overall management aims for the site.

<b>Aim: To Encourage the Involvement of Local People</b>						
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DELIVERY</b>	<b>SUCCESS CRITERIA</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>OFFICER RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
<b>Ensure high profile of the park locally and Borough wide</b>	Develop Web Pages specifically for Arnot Hill Park to include park facilities, photos and history information	This has been Implemented and is being monitored annually with current information.	Constant source of information. Hits to website/pages Customer Feedback	Officer Time	IT Section Parks Development Officer and Communications.	Specific site information available for existing and potential users
	Develop and maintain specific digital media platforms like Facebook for Arnot Hill Park	This has been Implemented and is managed by the Gedling Borough Council's Comm's Team and Park Ranger. Posts by the 'Friends Of' members keep the posts fresh.	Constant source of up-to-date information.	Officer Time	Communications Team and Park Rangers	Specific site information available for existing and potential users of Facebook
	Develop the concept of post card satisfaction surveys for use at all events and activities	Ongoing	Satisfied customer feedback, with useful information e.g. recommendations for future events/facilities	Officer time	Park Development Officer/ 'Friends Of' Group	Gain satisfaction reviews of all visitors
	Develop links with partners to promote the park wherever possible	Ongoing	User survey Increased customers	Officer Time	Park Development Officer	Improved partnership working

## Aim: To Encourage the Involvement of Local People

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY	SUCCESS CRITERIA	RESOURCES	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOMES
<b>Ensure high profile of the park locally and Borough wide</b>	Promote Parks satisfaction survey on webpage	Ongoing	Completed surveys received with suggestions for improvements by visitors, reach wider community	Officer time	Parks Development, IT staff	Gain satisfaction reviews of visitors, obtain improvement requirements
	Carry out face to face surveys with park users with assistance from 'Friends Of' group	Annually in summer	Completed surveys received with suggestions for improvements by visitors, reach wider community	Officer time	Parks Development, friends group	Gain satisfaction reviews of visitors and improved partnership working
<b>Assist with the promotion of community groups who use the park regularly</b>	Establish a small series of activities with community groups connected with the park designed to attract local people	Throughout the year	Increased community cohesion. Possible Income generation, assist to reach wider audience	Officer Time From existing revenue budgets	Parks development and Friends of group	Successful annual events
	Encourage the development of specialist subgroups through specialist events e.g. gardening groups	Seasonal	Landscape improvements and maintenance	Officer Time From existing revenue budgets	Parks development, friends group	Successful themed events

## Aim: To Establish Arnot Hill Park as a Major Visitor Attraction Within the Area

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY	SUCCESS CRITERIA	RESOURCES	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOMES
<b>Build Local Awareness</b>	Press releases for all major events in the park	Ongoing	Increased attendances at major events	Officer Time	Various officers responsible for individual events/communications staff	Activities and events well publicised
	Consult with the public to establish needs & establish alternative ways to consult	Ongoing	Improvements following consultation Positive comments from consultation	Officer Time	Parks development	Reach wider audience and council informed of visitor expectations
<b>Promote the park through events, activities and exhibitions</b>	Utilise cross marketing opportunities at facilities and events across the borough to exhibit the park	Ongoing	Literature in Leisure Centres, Libraries & Theatre Information at 3 events	Existing revenue	Parks development	Promotion at shows and events in Borough
	Continue to investigate innovate ways to draw people into the park. E.g. small scale events, Wildlife conservation	Ongoing	Attendance Feedback	Officer Time	Various officers responsible for individual events	Increased visitor numbers
	Interpret and promote Conservation and Heritage through on site interpretation signage	Ongoing	Users informed of the conservation and heritage value of the park	Existing revenue budget/assistance with friends group funding	Parks development	Improved facilities/information sharing.

## Aim: To Establish Arnot Hill Park as a Major Visitor Attraction Within the Area

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY	SUCCESS CRITERIA	RESOURCES	OFFICER RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOMES
<b>Raise the profile of the park</b>	Retain and promote Green Flag Award	Annual	Achieving and maintaining Green Flag Award	Officer Time Existing revenue budgets	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer	Achieve Green Flag award during period of plan
	Design and produce a series of high quality promotional information, guides and literature for the park	Ongoing where funding allows	Several leaflets produced E.g. General Parks leaflet, Tree and Arts Trail	Officer Time Existing revenue budgets	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers	Reference material available in accessible format for all
<b>Establish users of the park</b>	Publish the parks Management plan on the webpage	This has been implemented previously however it was taken down due to new Gedling Borough Council website being published with reduced information	Published plan is current	Officer time	PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer,	Plans on website
	Devise and carry out visitor satisfaction surveys	At all events, available on webpage and annual face to face surveys	Feedback from users Improvements following survey Number of survey's completed	Officer time	Parks Development Officer, rangers	Reach wider community members