

Gedling Country Park Management Plan 2020-2025 Fifth Edition



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Executive Summary

Statement from Councillor Peter Barnes

Gedling Borough Council is extremely proud of the developments which this brand new Country Park has undergone so far. From a landscape of industrial heritage and spoil heaps to an ecologically rich landscape of woodlands, grasslands and lagoons, the transformation has been astonishing.

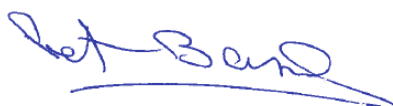
With the amazing support of the 'Friends of' Gedling Country Park we are committed to improving this amenity year on year, for the benefit of the people of Gedling and the wider community.

Since, the parks opening in 2015 the council have provided a new Visitor Centre/Café, Play Area, Memorial Garden, Ivan Gallop Garden, Viewing Platforms around the East Tip and development of a Community Orchard. Future developments may include the installation of a Sand Martin Bank and Bird Hide in the lower lagoons. All these developments further cement the council's priority to develop the park into a first class visitor attraction that showcases the conservation of the heritage and wildlife on the site. To compliment this vision the council are delivering on a long-term 'Aspirational Plan' to cover the period 2020-2030. The aim of the plan is to continue to enhance and improve the facilities on offer to the wider community.

We were extremely pleased to announce that the park had retained its Green Flag Award status for 2021/2022, making this the parks fifth award since its opening in 2015.



Councillor Peter Barnes – Portfolio Holder for Environment





Elected Members of the Council, Council staff, volunteers from the Friends of Gedling Country Park and Nottingham Trent University students celebrating the Fifth year of the Green Flag Award status

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November 2021

PARTNERSHIP WORKING





DIRECTIONS - Coming to Gedling Country Park from the M1 North

At junction 21a, take the A46 exit to Braunstone Frith/Kirby Muxloe/B5380

- Keep right at the fork, follow signs for A46/Leicester North/Newark
- Continue on A46
- Take the A6097 ramp to Mansfield/East Bridgford/Bingham & Ind Est
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Bridgford St/A6097
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Epperstone By-Pass/A6097
- Turn left onto Ton Ln
- Turn right onto Lambley Rd
- Continue onto Park Ln
- Continue onto Main St
- Continue onto Spring Ln

Coming to Gedling Country Park from the A1 South

- Merge onto A1
- Continue onto A1(M)
- Keep left at the fork to stay on A1(M)
- Continue onto A1
- Continue onto A1(M) (signs for Red House/The South/M18/M1)
- Take the A57/A614/B6420 exit toward Worksop/Sheffield/Nottingham/Ollerton/Babworth
- At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit
- At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Blyth Rd/A614
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Old Rufford Rd/A614
- Slight right onto Ollerton Rd/A614
- Slight left onto Old Rufford Rd/A614
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit and stay on Old Rufford Rd/A614
- Slight left onto B684
- At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Spring Lane



Digital Images of Gedling Country Park

GEDLING COUNTRY PARK – A COMMUNITY ASSET

Gedling Country Park is a significant public asset offering a range of leisure opportunities to the community as a whole. With the help of Gedling Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency, Gedling Borough Council have collectively invested £1.5m in transforming this former colliery site into a welcoming country park with some of the best views in Nottinghamshire.

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

The plan will be reviewed at regular intervals keeping 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.

Councillor Peter Barnes

Portfolio Holder for Environment



Gedling Country Park's lower lagoon, photo credit Chris Hill

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

This 'Management Plan' is the fifth edition for Gedling Country Park. It's creation and development is to fit alongside the Council's vision for the park and that of the 'Friends of' group. The plan will include the years between 2020 and 2025, to be followed by a review and update.

Objectives within the management plan will be made to provide structure for future development and will be measurable against time.

The document has been made to be a comprehensible paper for the public to read and will be made available along with its 'Action Plan' in PDF format on Gedling Borough Council's website <http://www.gedling.gov.uk/>. A hard copy of the Management Plan is also available by request at the Reception in the Civic Centre.

The plan addresses recent successes within the park, and issues that have arisen since its opening in March 2015 whilst fulfilling the Authority's aims. This document shows the potential of the Friends of group and the park as an educational resource, with use as an outdoor classroom for local schools and other user groups, taking interest in the parks Fauna, Flora and its Industrial heritage.

The Friends of Gedling Country Park' and volunteers are paramount to the future development of the park and have already had a huge impact since the park's opening. The group works closely with the Park Rangers; together they will be a catalyst for the creative development of the park, bringing organised activities, enjoyment and education to all visitors.

This Management Plan is not a stand-alone 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 and policies.

Background

Gedling Colliery was the life blood of Gedling and many surrounding villages, based three-miles to the East of Nottingham. Surface works started in 1899 and the shafts commenced being sunk in 1900. In 1902 coal production started and this continued until 8th November 1991 when the colliery was closed. The colliery was originally owned by the Digby Colliery Company from Giltbrook, they merged with Bestwood Company to become Bestwood Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. Nationalisation took place in 1947 to form the National Coal board East Midlands No.6 Area and subsequently into the National Coal Board South Nottinghamshire Area from 1967.

From the early 1950's to the late 1960's Gedling was a "big hitter" and regularly produced a million tons of coal during this period. Maximum manpower of 2,500 was achieved in the 1950's. After World War two Gedling became a receiving pit for many migrant miners from diverse locations around the world and became known as "the pit of all nations". During the period of mining operation a total of 130 men lost their lives at the pit.

Shortly after the pit closed, the mining infrastructure was removed from site and the land underwent major restoration works including the importation of top soil, tree planting and re-profiling of the Lagoons to improve their appearance and in order to allow a wider diversity of wildlife to inhabit them. These works improved the visual element of the spoil heaps and provided important wildlife habitats. The site as a whole has a great variety of habitats including grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and lagoons.

Thirty years on since the pit closure, nature has been able to take over, notable species of fauna including short eared owls, skylarks, lapwings and rare butterflies amongst others have inhabited the land making the site extremely important for wildlife.

In 2013 Gedling Borough Council signed a lease with Harworth Estates (the land owners) to develop the 238 hectare site into a destination country park. Since 2015 the Council are the freeholders of the park.

Since February 2014 major development works have taken place including the installation of new footpaths, making safe the old colliery drainage works and

manholes, installation of boundary fencing and engineering works to the main header wall on the Ouse Dyke enabling efficient drainage of the site.

A new access road and car park from Spring Lane completed the development for public access, this area is also ideal for visitors to take advantage of the open panoramic views to the west, south and east.

Due to the openness and the height of the site, views of Lincoln Cathedral and Belvoir Castle can be enjoyed from the footpath around the East tip, along with views of the Trent Valley and into Leicestershire. This experience is heightened further by the addition of the new viewing platforms.

Gedling Country Park is a unique site within Nottinghamshire, since 1899 the land has been used for production of energy, historically fossil fuels and now it boasts green credentials with the Solar panel farm. It is home to an abundance of important wildlife species and it is Gedling Borough Council's aim to conserve and enhance the wildlife as well as providing a destination Country Park for all to enjoy.

Along with the Council's parks and street care teams, the Friends of Gedling Country Park are actively managing the site, with the assistance and direction of the Council. The Friends of group has over 200 paying members and regularly host volunteer days and wildlife walks.

Site History, Heritage and Features

Gedling was first settled in Saxon times, taking its name from a chieftain called Gedl, and was recorded in the Domesday Book. Now a suburban village it is absorbed in the Nottingham conglomeration, it grew from being a farming and frame knitting community. The first pit shafts were sunk in 1899, coal mining continued until the pit closure in 1991.

A memorial to the miners who lost their lives whilst employed at the pit, in the form of a miner's lamp stands in the centre of Gedling Village, this is dedicated to 130 men who lost their lives in accidents at the pit and to all those who worked there.

Gedling Village

On Arnold Lane is the Manor Farmhouse, one of the oldest buildings in Gedling, adjacent to the more recent Hardstaff Almshouses. These twelve almshouses were built in memory of Elizabeth Hardstaff in 1935, originally to accommodate the widows and orphans of miners. Designed by the renowned architect T.C Howitt, the almshouses won the Royal Institute of British Architect's Bronze Medal. The building on Shearing Hill which is now the youth club was formerly Gedling's station on the railway known locally as the 'Mineral Line'. This once busy route passed through the village and the colliery site from Colwick Junction towards Mapperley Tunnel and beyond.

Environmental and Ecological Status

The Council established the park as a recreational facility for the people of Gedling. As such it has been developed and continues to be developed to cater for a wide range of recreational pursuits. In 2021 the site received its fifth Green Flag Award and the site is now declared as a Local Nature Reserve. There are several non-statutory sites of special interest within the surrounding area which are listed in the EMEC Ecology report, available for viewing during the field assessment.



Terry Lock, chairman of the Friends of Gedling Country Park

Alongside one of the Lagoons on site.

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Motivation

Gedling Country Park is currently in its infant state after being opened in March 2015. In June 2015 the land was acquired by Gedling Borough Council from Harworth Estates.

This Management Plan will be used as a living-working document to outline the commitments of the Council and the Friends of Gedling Country Park.

The Council is committed to retaining the Green Flag Award each year, which demonstrates to the local community and local Councilors, a clear management of the quality of the park into the future. Since 2018 the park now holds Local Nature Reserve status.

The management plan is essential, as within it, the aims and objectives are set out, to achieve within a time-scale and to a standard specified by the parks development team. 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.

Review and Monitoring

The purpose of reviewing the results of the management plan shows whether the correct interventions have been made, i.e. have the aims and objectives for the year (and the future) been achieved by appropriate investment of resources and manpower, whether for promotion of the park, development and maintenance of the site and its facilities, or as a capital investment.

Monitoring will highlight where the successes and failures have occurred, how changes can be made and built upon; or mitigated 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 park manager, of progress towards achieving our objectives. The results of the new marketing plan should indicate, e.g. gaps in 'community participation' and in any case greatly assist with decision making.

The Friends of Gedling Country Park Group is and has been a vital resource in helping the Parks Management to develop the park. The aspirations of the group and the individuals who have formed the 'Committee' have helped develop Gedling Country Park in its early stages, and will continue to prove vital to the parks future developments.



A WELCOMING PLACE



A WELCOMING PLACE

Aims and Objectives

Aims

Gedling Borough Council's newest country park has so far received great interest from the public as was seen on the opening event with upwards of two thousand people attending despite the appalling weather conditions. The Council's aim is to provide a great first impression for all visitors to the park.

Before the official opening it was decided that the mining heritage of the site would be celebrated by the presence of two refurbished mining carts at the entrance to the park. Below are two pictures of the mining carts before refurbishment and in situ on site.



Mining Cart donated by Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Ltd. Councillor Peter Barnes pictured before renovation was undertaken.



Renovated mining cart after being sand blasted and painted. The inscription describes the name of the mine and its production dates.

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 externally and internally.
- Equal access for all.
- Monitor visitor numbers to assist and justify funding from external sources

Achieving the Objectives

Access

Public transport links local areas to Spring Lane, Lambley Lane and Arnold Lane, all bordering the Country park on the North, East and South sides. Parking spaces within the site have recently been increased from 100 spaces to 200 spaces. The park's eastern boundary is bordered by Lambley Lane Playing fields, here there are additional parking spaces for 50 cars. Access to the park can be made from any of the 4 gates around its perimeter. The Northern 3 access points are suitable for pushchair and wheelchair users and recent developments have seen the access point through Lambley Lane Playing Fields also suitable for these users. To comply with the need for disability access, two new wheelchair accessible gates have now been installed during 2019/2020.



Modified DDA Compliant Gates from New Housing Development

Requirements for disabled users must be considered, 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 2nd December 1996, it has been unlawful for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably for a reason related to their disability.

Access Audit

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 under-represented as park users. In line with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1996, it is Gedling Borough Council's aim to promote accessibility to all and have now fulfilled its commitment to have a DDA Access Audit completed in November 2021. The results of this independent report will now influence future actions within the Management Plan and address any discrepancies found by the report.

Footpaths around the site have been named after the seams within the old mine to reflect the mines heritage on the site, High Hazels, Main Bright, Top Hard and Low Hazels were popular choices, chosen after speaking to mining historians and the local public.

Confirmation has been received from Nottinghamshire County Council that the bus stops which serve Gedling Country Park are to be altered to assist public access. These works will include providing raised boarding kerbs, plus dropped kerbs to enable passengers to access the Nottingham inbound bus stop.

Nottinghamshire County Council have also suggested that they may be able to relocate the stops closer to the Country Park and these works have now been completed during 2019.

A copy of the Access Audit can be requested if necessary.

Use of Signage

Directional signs in the form of brown 'Tourist Signs' exist on local roads pointing to the main car park on Spring Lane.

On turning in to the car park visitors are greeted with welcome signage, as seen below.

Two identical 'Welcome signs' are in place at the entrance to the Spring Lane car park on both the left and right hand side of the road.



There are three main information signs on site that are shown in the image below, placed strategically at points where paths meet and at the two main entrances to the site. Three more are located at the pedestrian access points.



Visitors finding their way through the park using the new signage.

These signs are identical in their construction and host 'you are here' symbols and are orientated to where the sign is placed, and what the visitor can see from their position. The signs were updated in 2019 to reflect the addition of the play area, visitor centre and memorial garden. Future updates maybe required as the park is further developed.

In addition to these information signs are two lecterns showing the information in the picture below. These smaller lecterns hold key information for visitors including, site prohibitions and path routes. Again, the maps on these lecterns are orientated to the position at which they are placed, allowing visitors to easily follow the footpaths to the path route they are looking for.

In addition to the maps found around the park there is a leaflet displaying the map which is available in the Café.



One of two lecterns located at the two footpath entrances onto the park.

Adjacent to the Spring Lane car park, a notice board has been positioned next to the information sign. This notice board hosts information about events on site and throughout the Borough, including those which the Friends of group are hosting.

To give directional information to visitors on the footpaths within the park, 'way marker' posts have been installed around the site, using colour coded symbols which match the colours of the routes.

A total of eleven information boards can be found within the park. The information includes:

- Mining History
- Green Energy Production
- Butterfly Walk Information
- Pond and Lagoon Information
- Wildflower Meadow Information
- Ivan Gollop Bee Garden
- Compass Panel
- Fauna Panel
- Flora Panel
- Colliery Panel
- Railway Panel

They are strategically placed around the site and paper copies of the design are available on request.

Monitoring visitor numbers

In March 2021 Gedling Borough Council installed a vehicle counter at the main entrance off Spring Lane.

Over the period of 2021 more than 387,058 visitors entered the park via the main car entrance alone. This number reflects the parks great success and popularity whilst also displaying the need for green spaces for health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE



HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

Aims and objectives

Aims

Gedling Borough Councils' 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 visitor/staff safety
- Deal with Anti-social behaviour in an effective manner
- Complying to statutory instrument 2004 no.118 prescribed descriptions (England) order 2004 (Established statutory crime and disorder strategies) open spaces act 1906
- Deal with Incidents/Accidents and apply appropriate reporting/investigation.
- Promote the park as an inexpensive option for exercise i.e. walking/cycling and sports activities

Achieving the Objectives

Security

Successful management of anti-social behaviour and vandalism contribute heavily towards the overall safety of a park, giving its visitors confidence to use the space. The prompt response to the removal of fly tipping, graffiti and dog fouling has proven to reduce the reoccurrence (Green Places, 2008) of vandalism on other parks in the Borough, and the Council will endeavour to deal with such antisocial behaviour on Gedling Country Park in the same efficient manner. Our policy is to remove graffiti containing offensive, sexual or racial material within 24 hours, and the remainder within 7 working days.

Our Park Rangers, parks maintenance operatives, Neighbourhood Wardens and Friends Group members 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, Parks and Street Care staff (PASC) and the

community safety team are all working to make the park a secure place. The park is regularly inspected and patrolled by:

- Park Rangers
- Grounds maintenance Staff
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Police Community Support Officers
- Members of the Friends of group

Any findings are reported promptly to the PASC Manager. The Grounds staff ensure the repairs are completed satisfactorily with direction from the PASC Manager.

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 meeting with the local Community Beat Manager.

As with most parks within the area, it was decided at the design stage that the installation of height barriers on the entrances would deter fly tipping and discourage encroachment by travellers.

Health and 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 of its employees.

The council also recognises its responsibilities towards the safety of visitors, contractors and other persons who enter Council premises and the safety of persons who may be affected by its activities. This includes volunteers on the park who are issued with the correct PPE and work equipment to undertake their tasks. Tool safety talks are given by the Park Rangers to ensure all activities run safely and all activities are risk assessed prior to them taking place. In addition the volunteers from the Friends Group also have their own public liability insurance that covers their environmental tasks. Following on from organised events, debriefs are held to ensure any acquired learning is taken on board and to share best practice.

All accidents in the park are recorded immediately upon being reported and follow up management action, investigation and monitoring is an established operation. Please see example of Reporting Form in the Health & Safety Appendix 1. 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.

WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN



WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN



Aims and Objectives

Aims

Gedling Borough Council are committed to providing a clean park, with a well maintained landscape and facilities.

Objectives

- To manage and maintain soft landscape and trees
- To ensure hard landscaping, e.g. carpark, entrance road and footpaths 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

The Gedling Country Park Action Plan can be found on Page 64 onwards.

Landscape Maintenance

The Grounds Maintenance Staff from PASC maintain the park to a good level of horticultural practice, see Landscape Quality Manual, available during the field assessment.

Gedling Country Park currently has a diverse range of habitat types including: planted broad-leaved woodlands, semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, dense and scattered scrub, bare ground, improved grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, dry ditches, wet flushes and open water. The variety of habitats across the park provide year round interest to visitors and the maintenance plan for the Park will aim to maintain and enhance these features in to the future.

Tree Maintenance

Quarterly ground inspections are carried out with particular attention paid to older specimens for damaged branches, with findings dealt with promptly under strict Health and Safety guidelines by in house staff trained in Arboriculture. The majority of the work done on these trees is those highlighted as dead, dying or diseased or posing any safety risk to the public, particularly those adjacent to footpaths.

We are currently working towards developing a Woodland Tree Management Plan for the site, which will outline future maintenance requirements and the timing of works by our in-house tree team. In addition it is envisaged that the management plan will encompass our 'Memorial Tree Policy' and specify the range of trees the Parks Department will consider when dealing with tree planting requests from public. The appointment of a tree officer in February 2022 will assist in the development of this document.

New tree planting is annually undertaken, but future development schemes like the new 'Memorial Woodland' will reflect the views of other partner organisations. To date, a broad spectrum of native trees have been planted annually throughout different areas of the park and some of these new additions form the basis of a tree trail developed both by the Friends Of group and the council in 2020.

Grounds, Buildings and Equipment

With the children's play area now in place a maintenance schedule has been created to reflect works that will be undertaken, this will be reviewed on an annual basis. The construction of the visitor centre on the site has now been completed and a maintenance schedule has been created to reflect works both internally and externally which is reviewed on an annual basis. Car park surfacing, along with pathways, signage and benches/tables will be maintained accordingly, in line with the Maintenance Plan, which is available for viewing during the field Assessment. For a detailed description and breakdown of the maintenance of the park facilities please refer to the Park's Maintenance Plan. A very basic summary of regular works has been included below in Table 1A.

| Activity | Regularity | Workers | Responsibility |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Litter Picking | Twice Weekly | PASC Operative/Rangers | Operations Manager |
| Carry out play park inspections and action remedial work as required | Weekly | ROSPA Trained Operatives | Operations Manager |
| Carry out site inspections | Monthly | PASC Supervisors | Service Manager |
| Remove/ prune any unwanted trees or shrubs growing from boundaries | As and when needed | PASC Operatives/ arborists Rangers | Operations Manager |
| Carry out an annual inspection of boundaries and access gateways and repair as required | Annually | PASC Operatives/Supervisors | Operations Manager/Service Manager |
| Manual weed control | As required | PASC Operatives | Operations Manager |
| Chemical weed control - Herbicide (Japanese Knot weed only) | regulated eradication of Japanese Knotweed | Herbicide licensed PASC Operatives trained in stem injecting | Operations Manager |

Table 1A – Summary of Regular Maintenance Works at Gedling Country Park

Clean

Staff from the Parks and Street Care team including the Park Rangers maintain the grounds to a high standard, they undertake regular walkabouts of the grounds to ensure that the site is managed appropriately. The Friends of group assist the full time staff with litter picking on a voluntary basis and regularly patrols the site. 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 bins and dog waste bins are emptied by grounds staff in accordance with the PASC Department guidelines, as detailed in the Landscape Quality Manual.

Litter bins are emptied twice per week and litterpicking is undertaken at the same time, although with the Friends of group carrying out litterpicking on a regular basis, this would equate to 4 litterpicks over a 7 day period.

Gedling Borough Council operates a No Dog Fouling Policy, with 'No Dog Fouling' signs posted throughout the park. The Neighbourhood Wardens regularly patrol the site and will enforce the policy when necessary. A large permanent banner is often placed on the park railings at the main entrance to show our 'no dog fouling' stance. Recent campaigns have included the use of Council graffiti messages and glow in the dark signs to deter potential culprits.

Following requests from dog walkers and following feedback from Neighbourhood Wardens, 7 new bins have been installed around the paths to deal with complaints of dog fouling. We believe that educating the public is the best way to avoid dog fouling in our parks and so the Neighbourhood Wardens will be attending future events on Gedling Country Park.

During 2018/2019 an executive decision was taken by the Council to introduce 'Dog Zones' to the park. Map boards informing the public of where a dog could be off a lead and markers were also positioned at strategic points around the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Aims and Objectives

Aims

Gedling Borough Council is committed to Local Agenda 21 and constantly takes into account sustainability in its management of Gedling Country Park.

Objectives

- To stop the use of pesticides and replace where possible with 'bee friendly' biocides
- To endeavour to recycle waste material on site or locally and support Local Agenda 21
- To work within the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- To consider the planting or removal of tree's within the park considerate of environmental and biodiversity values
- To continue to encourage the utilisation of renewable energies within the park
- To work with on-site partners to maintain Bee Hives within enclosed bee area.
- To be considerate of sustainability throughout the design process of the desired Visitor Centre and to work within Gedling Borough Council's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan

There is an Environmental Policy in use for the maintenance and management of Gedling Country Park which can be viewed 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 Gedling Borough Council website.

Achieving the Objectives

Herbicides and Pesticides

The council made a decision to ban the use of chemicals on its land to treat invasive weeds at the start of 2021. This was done as a positive move to try and reduce the council's impact on pollinators, in particular bees who's populations have been significantly reduced over the years as a result of chemical. The only exception to

this is the use of herbicides limited to control non-native invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed which is present on site.

The council are currently 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.

Recycling

Following Green Flag judges' comments recycling bins for public use have now been installed outside the Café. It is envisaged that future consideration may see other recycling bins installed as the park develops in the coming years.

Tree Planting and Thinning/Removal

Introduction of new trees should have the following considerations:

- Native species, sourced locally
- Pollution Tolerance
- Climate change
- Water sustainability
- Value of habitat
- Increase use of native 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

Continue to work to the action plan to thin woodlands within the next three years, aiming to remove around 10-15% of trees within existing woodlands.

Beehive Installation

Gedling Borough Council's Parks Department and the Friends of Gedling Country Park initially reached an agreement with the owners of the Solar Farm, Anesco, to house Beehives on the enclosed site in 2016. This however, proved unsuccessful

and the beehives have now been relocated to a purpose built compound located near the Ivan Gollop Bee Garden and funded by funding the Friends Of group. It is envisaged that this facility may be used in time to educate pupils from visiting schools.

Environmental and Biodiversity Values

Urban greening is important 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 Invertebrate habitats

Government 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.

Other Sustainable Activities

- Use of recycled plastic materials for signage and waymarkers
- All benches, tables and bins on site are of recycled plastic construction
- Installation of Water Fountain



Building upon the Councils commitments to become a Plastic Clever Council, all Green Flag parks have now seen water fountains installed. This initiative outlines the commitment of the Council to phase out the sale of single use plastics from its facilities and to raise awareness of Kids against Plastics campaign brought about by local school children Amy and Ella Meek. It is also the intention of the council to phase out the use of single use plastic products starting with disposable cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council buildings.

BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE



Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Aims and Objectives

Aims

Gedling Borough Council aims to increase the value of the Landscape, heritage and enhance the biodiversity of Gedling Country Park.

Former colliery sites often show reminders of their mining heritage, through clear landscape features or mining buildings such as 'winding houses'. Although no buildings from the colliery remain on Gedling Country Park, it is Gedling Borough's aim to preserve its mining heritage and to remember those who worked on the site.

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)
- Maintain and enhance features of Mining History and develop features of renewable energy future.
- Continue to develop the Heritage Lottery Funded, Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project

Achieving the Objectives

Gedling Borough Council will continue to work with local history groups, the Friends of Gedling Country Park, Anesco and other partners to preserve the industrial history of the site whilst working towards the enhancement of its greener future.

Wildlife and Habitat Management

The Parks Department and the Friends of group have continued to manage the existing wildlife habitats and create new habitats since the park opening in March 2015.

In the summer of 2014, EMEC Ecology were contracted to undertake phase 1 habitat and wildlife surveys and produce a report to recommend future works to enhance biodiversity. The weekly environmental volunteer sessions run by both the Friends Of Gedling Country Park and the Park Rangers utilise these recommendations to help manage the wildlife and Habitats within the park. All the

recommendations in the report are clearly set-out in the action plan within this management plan.

It is the aspiration of Gedling Borough Council and the Friends of Gedling Country Park to have the site registered as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and following much work this objective has now been completed and the park awarded its accreditation. Similarly, it is an objective of both the council and the Friends Of group to make the site an educational/scientific resource and as such, Nottingham Trent University are one of a number of key partners undertaking valuable ecological surveying amongst other tasks. The council has also committed to providing opportunities for students to undertake work placements at the Country Park and for lecturers to utilise the facilities for student field trips. During 2021-2022 welcomed seven students into the park who assist on a weekly basis, giving them practical experience and applied knowledge.

The outbreak of Covid-19 unfortunately put a halt to much of the survey work during 2020-2021. It is envisaged that 2022 will see a 'start back' of some of the surveying work needed to monitor species; resources allowing. Past surveys outlining the protected/notable bird species recorded on site can be seen in the table 2A on the following page.

| Common Name | WCA 1981 ³ | UK BAP | Notts BAP | RSPB Red List | RSPB Amber List |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| Bar-tailed Godwit | | X | | | X |
| Barn Swallow | | X | | | X |
| Blackcap | | X | | | |
| Common chiffchaff | | X | | | |
| Common Kestrel | | X | | | X |
| Common Snipe | | X | | | X |
| Cuckoo | | | | | X |
| Eurasian woodcock | | X | | | X |
| Fieldfare | X | X | | | X |
| Garden Warbler | | X | | | |
| Goldfinch | | X | | | |
| Grasshopper warbler | | X | | X | |
| Greenfinch | | X | | | |
| Green woodpecker | | X | | X | X |
| Grey partridge | | X | | | |
| Grey wagtail | | X | | | X |
| Greylag goose | | X | | | X |
| House martin | | X | | | X |
| Lapwing | | X | | | X |
| Lesser black-backed gull | | X | | | X |
| Meadow pipit | | | | | X |
| Mute swan | | | | | X |
| Pied wagtail | | X | | | |
| Redwing | X | X | | | X |
| Ring ouzel | | X | | X | |
| Sand martin | | | | | X |
| Short-eared owl | | | | | X |
| Sky lark | | X | | X | |
| Stonechat | | X | | | X |
| Whitethroat | | | | | |
| Willow tit | | X | | X | |
| Willow warbler | | X | | | X |
| Yellow wagtail | | X | | | X |

Table 2A – Protected Bird Species sighted on Gedling Country Park

The Friends Of Gedling Country Park, along with students from Nottingham Trent University continue to collect data of the flora and fauna of GCP. Further studies/surveys and observations are required to provide more accurate indications of the state of environmental health of the Park or of any decline or increase of wildlife. Some indications of both decline and increase of various species are showing but no indications as yet to the causes, but generally things are looking OK. 2022 will see survey work recommencing, from that we can get an idea of how records have changed during the pandemic.

| Brief Outline Survey Data (2015-2021) | |
|---|--|
| Sight Specific Recordings | Important Species/Notes/Comments |
| 27 Species of Butterfly identified and varying numbers every year. Three species of County Importance. | Dingy Skipper (Southern Boundary) Pearl-bordered Fritillary (Southern Boundary) Green Hairstreak (Southern Facing Slopes) Brimstone (Northern Woodland Hedgerows) |
| 72 Species of Moths, 10 of these are of ' Conservation Concern ' | Angle striped Sallow |
| 10 Species of Grasshopper/Crickets | Further Surveys Required |
| 3 Species of Amphibians are found of GCP of, which, all of them are ' Conservation Concern ' | Further Surveys Required |
| 1 Species of Reptile listed as ' Conservation Concern ' in Nottinghamshire | Further Surveys Required |
| Spiders and their relatives are poorly recorded on GCP. One species, False Scorpion is a species of ' Conservation Concern ' | Further Surveys Required |
| 19 Species of Dragonflies and Damselflies. Four species are of ' Conservation Concern ' of which, two are of National importance. | It is suspected that more species are present on GCP and further observations are required. |
| Seventeen species of Mammals excluding Bats. Nine species are of ' Conservation Concern ' in Nottinghamshire | Negotiations in progress to increase numbers of Hedgehogs on GCP and to undertake more Bat Surveys with the help of Nottinghamshire Bat Group in (2021/2022). |
| 115 Birds Species found either living or visiting site. 29 are of ' Conservation Concern ', 7 being National Red listed and 18 Amber listed. | Records are being analysed to indicate the seasonality of visitors. Ringing of Birds by BTO commenced 2019. |

Table 2B – Sight specific Flora and Fauna Surveys Data (2015-2021)

New Zealand Pygmy Weed

This invasive weed is present in every water body on the site and in some areas is in high quantities. New Zealand Pygmy Weed is an invasive none native species which is spread easily and is notoriously difficult to eradicate. As a department, we have decided that we will have to work around the Pygmy Weed and manage it as well as possible.

As it is an offence to knowingly spread the weed we will be keeping all of the removed weed on site to decompose. Any equipment used during its removal will be cleaned thoroughly after use. With this in mind the works on the pond areas will continue as prescribed by EMEC Ecology in the Action Plan. Specialised contractors Aquatic Solutions have recently undertaken work on the central lagoon and the contaminated waste has been left to rot-down in situ at the side of the lagoon.



Reed removal using Amphibious equipment on the Central Lagoon

November 2019 – Photograph courtesy of Philip Orme

Heritage

Gedling Borough Council and the Friends of wish to commemorate the mining heritage of the site wherever possible. The first view on entrance to the park is the mining carts donated by Nottingham Society of Model and Experimental Engineers Ltd. Having features on site which remind people of the mining heritage, we believe is very important for the site.

In the Memorial Garden we have installed reclaimed Pit-Support hoops from the colliery. Also located in the garden is a bespoke art sculpture depicting mining history, this project was funded by a joint application by the Council and Friend group to the Notts County Council Local Improvement scheme. It has many features that reflect the park's history.



Memorial Garden Sculpture installed in December 2017.

Nottinghamshire County Council funded and created by local artist Richard Janes.

Eleven interpretation boards have now been installed on the site. These include information on; Pond Ecology, Green Energies, Transformation from Pit to Park, Butterfly and Wild Flower Meadow information. Also as part of the Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery covering the Fauna, Flora, Colliery and Railway, plus a Compass Panel have now been located around the park. This award of £75,000 of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has also seen the delivery of two mosaics and a mural in the Café 1899. Plus a 'Short Film' screened on the monitors in the Café. Upon completion of the project, the visitor centre will serve as the main body of educational material on the park's history and current management.

Further information lecterns are planned for 2022 and will reflect on the development of the Memorial Woodland and the Educational Coppice Area the Friends Of group have been developing with the Rangers for several years.



Heritage Brought Alive Project - Mosaics installed in Café 1899 March 2019



Café 1899 Mural – Gedling Heritage Interpretation Project

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Aims and Objectives

Aims

Since the opening of Gedling Country Park in March 2015, visitors have commented on how much of a community asset the ex-mine has become. Every visitor has a valid say on the future developments of the park and need to be involved along the way.

Events continue to be held on Gedling Country Park, with Gedling Borough's Parks Department hosting Environmental sessions, to the Friends of Group hosting Bird and Butterfly Walks, Orienteering events, Dawn Walks and family fun days. During 2019 Nottingham Orienteering group also produced a scaled map of an orienteering course for the public to download and also launched a number of events throughout the summer.

Gedling Borough Council and the Friends of group aim to promote the park to the local and wider community through an extensive events programme. This being said the last two years have seen a decline in events on the park because of Covid-19 but we are hopeful to organise events again in 2022.

Community events within Gedling Country Park are also published on Gedling Borough Council's website and the Friends of Gedling Country Park webpage. It is 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. Agenda 21 encourages voluntary and community groups to keep park use from declining.
- Increase number of events as a marketing tool
- Public consultation in future development within the park
- Work with businesses and volunteers
- Work with the Friends of group to provide the best possible interpretation for the park's assets
- Involve the Friends of group in the development and updates of the management plan.
- Continue to work with local schools and community groups
- Continue to provide support to the Friends of group in fund raising

Achieving the objectives

The Parks Department and the Friends Of group regularly meet 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 new marketing plan.

As a result of listening to the needs of the park's users, a new children's play area was installed and opened on the 22nd October 2016. Along with £150k of capital funding the friends group and Gedling Borough Council were successful in being awarded a further £50k of WREN funding so we could provide a comprehensive adventurous play facility for children up to 16 years. This new facility has already attracted many families to the park, who are very grateful for its addition.

The marketing is integral in informing current users and encouraging new users about the value of the park as a recreational and educational resource on their doorstep.

Consultation at present is largely through the elected members, local schools and the Friends of group. Their views reflect the original aims of Gedling Country Park being an educational resource and providing relaxation and recreation for all the people of Gedling and of the wider community. Although public opinion can also be gauged by posts on social media.

The Friends Of group and Council have continued to attract volunteers from various local corporate businesses and through promoting volunteer opportunities for the public to assist in environmental projects.

The Council are intending to work with Nottingham City Arts to undertake community consultation to find out which art projects the public would be interested in seeing at the park, including the possibility of tree sculptures. Previously consultation was also carried out at the Friends of groups Open Day in November 2015 to provide further support for the ideas and concepts.

The Friends Of group are a huge asset to the park and thankfully has continued since the park opened. Future aspirations for the park are as follows:

- Bird hide (subject to funding)
- Sand Martin Nest (subject to funding currently delayed due to Covid)
- Glades gravel pathway (Subject to Funding)
- A guidebook on GCP Bees to be developed (2021/2022)

Many of these projects are reliant of securing external funding and to date the Friends Of group have been very successful in raising capital funding from these sources. This being said the Councils Parks Department continue to support the group wherever possible with additional funding to help the group complete projects.

Recent Volunteer work and initiatives:

- The Friends Of group continue to help maintain many habitats within the park and have been instrumental in clearing invasive scrub from the area occupied by the Dingy Skipper and other butterflies.
- Creating living willow bird hides near the central lagoons
- Planting trees to create a Native Tree Trail
- Placing marker posts on the tree trail
- Producing a detailed guide to the tree trail and the trees featured on it
- Developing an Educational Copse
- Increasing the availability of Educational Material on site by introducing a Nature trail Booklet.
- Developing links with both voluntary organisations and commercial partners to undertake environmental tasks.
- Raised funding for Environmental Projects like the Bee Compound
- Established a link with a local Hedgehog Rescue to release injured hedgehogs on the Country Park in 2022.
- Supported the Rangers in providing practical opportunities for students from Nottingham Trent University.
- Designing and producing a 'sink hole' weir box within the central lagoon to help maintain water levels and move a possible hazard (weir) out into water that cannot be reached without a boat.
- Creation of wildlife 'scrapes' by the Friends of group close to the solar farm for migratory birds and waders
- Artificial King Fisher nesting tubes have been installed by the lower lagoons to try and improve biodiversity.



NTU students and the recently installed Kingfisher nesting tubes

Surveys Spring 2020 to 2022:

- Due to Covid-19 much of the surveying work was put on hold through 2020-2021 it is however envisaged that in 2022 work will recommence and will cover:
- moth trapping surveys
- Bird count and mist netting to establish populations and species.
- Identify species present in the newly created scrapes on the grasslands near the solar farm.

Other events planned by the Friends of Gedling Country Park:

- Beekeeping demonstrations to begin 2022
- Hazel coppicing in the Glades
- Willow weaving demonstrations and classes within the woodland glades
- Volunteer days – Alternate Sundays and Tuesdays with Rangers
- Park-Run, a volunteer lead organised running group hold a weekly 5km run on the site with the assistance of the friends of Gedling Country Park. Currently around 200 individuals turn up to this event including walkers and runners.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION



MARKETING

Aims and Objectives

Aims

Gedling Borough Council has pride in its parks and in particular the opening of Gedling Country Park, it is our aim to work closely in partnership with the Friends of group to promote the park. Gedling Country Park has already had regional promotion through the TV news and newspapers and it is our aim to now carry on publicising our park, as with others, on events posters, our website, local papers, local radio, social media and our contacts magazine which goes out to all 119,000 Gedling Borough Council Residents and businesses.

As a result of updating our marketing plan (available to view during the field assessment) and following the comments of Green Flag Judges on our other parks, we have surveyed the wider communities who use our parks, including recently, Gedling Country 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 our parks. A user satisfaction survey is also available for completion on the Gedling Borough Council website.

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 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

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 Country Park Friends of Group recruitment stall
at the park opening event in March 2015.**

Gedling Borough Council's website lists details about our parks, with an updated specific page relating to Gedling Country Park. The page also includes a link to the Friends of group website which publishes park events in a calendar:

<https://www.gedling.gov.uk/gedlingcountrypark/>

A new leaflet for Gedling Country Park has been designed and produced showing the area, paths and lengths of walk; will be available both from a number of Council buildings (Bowls Pavilion, Civic Centre and Jubilee House) and will also be distributed by Nottinghamshire County Council to local libraries amongst others. This new leaflet will also be available to both view and download from Gedling Borough Council's website.

Details of developments and forthcoming events go into the Council's 'Contacts' Magazine.

Posters detailing information about events in the park are placed on the notice board adjacent to the car park on Spring Lane and promoted in the Café.

The Council is committed to ensure 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 a number of positive News articles in the local press. The Gedling Eye featured an article showing the unveiling of our latest 'Green Flag'

Achievements. Whilst the recently created Native Tree Trail featured in ITV's regional news in late summer.



<https://www.gedlingeye.co.uk/news/gedling-borough-wins-four-green-flag-awards-for-its-parks-and-open-spaces/>

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

The Council continues suffer from reductions to public spending, which has continued since the start of the austerity measurements in 2008. What was scheduled to be an extremely challenging 28% reduction in council funding has now exceeded 33% and, for some go higher.

This is taking place against the backdrop of a difficult economic environment and increased demand for our services. We will be forced to make some very difficult decisions. It is inevitable these cuts will mean we have to offer less as a council parks department, what we do offer will be done well, but we will no longer be able to provide all of the services we currently do.

A rolling programme of new and replacement planting has begun to take shape this year, with emphasis on open areas and plantations.

Recruitment to the Friends of group who are involved in park life, helping with the running of events in the park and the upkeep of the site, has been a great success. Advertisements for the group remain on the Gedling Borough Council website and on the Friends of website. The group currently has around 200 paid members, although during volunteer sessions, we are seeing an average attendance of around 4-6. We will continue to work alongside the Friends of group to advertise volunteer sessions and encourage the Friends of members to take an active role in managing the park.

Summary of Maintenance Plan

The Landscape Quality Manual is available as a separate document from the Parks Department. This document outlines the sites current maintenance practices for the grounds hard and soft features, including guidance notes of practices carried out on site, frequency of actions; all within Health and Safety procedures and COSHH regulations.

The grounds maintenance costs budgeted for 2021/22 is approximately £50,000. Any extra budget that is needed for this year will be obtained by making a capital bid.

MANAGEMENT



MANAGEMENT

Aims and Objectives

Aims

The vision for Gedling Country Park is:

To enhance and develop Gedling Country Park for the enjoyment of its visitors whilst promoting its heritage, wildlife, recyclable energies and recreational values, to ensure the park remains a destination Country Park for Nottinghamshire.

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 history 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 to promote the park as a first class outdoor education facility.

Partners

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

- Gedling Country Park Friends of group
- Parks and Street Care Services
- Leisure Services
- Facilities Management Services
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Greenwood Community Forest
- Nottingham Trent University
- Local Schools and Youth Service
- Gedling Play Partnership and Gedling Play Forum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Jigsaw Homes
- Anesco
- Parkrun
- Nottingham City Arts

Partners (Continued)

- British Orienteering
- EMEC Ecology
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- RSPB

Local Policies

- Gedling Heritage Strategy 2018
- Gedling Borough Aligned Core Strategy 2012-2028
- South Nottingham Community Safety Strategy 2013 onwards
- Gedling Borough Council Green Spaces Strategy 2021-2026
- The Sustainable Communities Strategy Vision 2026 and its 5 Priorities
- Animal Welfare Policy 2014
- Gedling Borough Council Parks Bylaws
- Gedling Borough Council – Local Planning Documents Part 2 Local Plan
- Gedling Borough Council – New Housing Development, Supplementary Planning Guidance for Open Space Provision
- Sustainability Appraisal Publication Draft – Appendix G: Appraisal of Development Management Policies
- The Gedling Plan 2020-2023
- Gedling Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan 2018
- Gedling Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2025
- Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022
- Active Notts – Getting Active together
- The Nottinghamshire Bio-Diversity Action Plan (BAP)
- Corporate Volunteer Policy 2020

In addition to the above policies Gedling Borough Council are also consulting on their Climate Change Strategy. This is an ambitious policy to achieve zero carbon by 2030 and it is planned to be adopted in 2022.

Achieving the Objectives

Management of the Park

Responsibility for the overall management of Gedling Country Park is principally with Gedling Borough Council under the direction of the Head of Environment. They are assisted by their teams which include the Parks Development Officer, Urban Park Rangers, Parks and Street Care Operations Manager and Ground Maintenance Operatives.

Gedling Country Park is extremely popular with visitors and well used by the people of Gedling and the wider community. 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.

It was Gedling Borough Councils expectation that by 2020, the park would be a fantastic resource for environmental education, from children as young as pre-school up to and including University students.

A number of documents feed into the Management Plan including Gedling Country Park Ecology, Landscape and Management Plan 2017-2021, an Access Audit, Environmental Policy, and the new Gedling County Park Long-term Aspirational Plan (2020-2030) which will direct the future development of the park. Whilst the latter is yet to be formally approved by the Senior Leadership Team and Elected Members, many of the recommendations that are proposed within this document will become inherent within the 'Action Plan' from 2020 onwards. These documents are available for viewing during the field assessment.

As the park has only been open to the public since March 2015, we are constantly receiving and monitoring user feedback, so far this feedback has assisted us in installing more bins around the site and to extend the car parking area to allow for more spaces. The feedback on site has also enabled us to gain funding for a new play area in 2016 and a new visitor centre in 2017.

Our response to the public views on the site is a great example of the Councils commitment to the park, and this feedback will be monitored into the future to expand the knowledge needs and wishes of members of the public.

Resources for the Park

The costs associated with park management come from the revenue budgets held by Gedling Borough Council. Gedling Country Park capital budgets for specialist areas such as children's play area equipment and young people's equipment wherever possible will be part funded from outside grant schemes such as FCC Communities, to be able to provide the very highest standard. An application for £50,000 from FCC Communities (formerly WREN) was successful in part-funding the

installation of a new play area. Additionally, £120,000 funding for the Viewing Platforms was secured from the Rural Payments Agency.

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.

SWOT ANALYSIS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A Welcoming Place | |
| Strengths | Excellent vehicle and pedestrian access; convenient disabled spaces; two main signs 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 of group; marketing strategy |
| Weaknesses | Semi-permanent staff presence on site; grounds maintenance standards not consistent; pedestrians and vehicles mix on one pathway |
| Opportunities | Further funding to raise ground maintenance standard; Friends of group applied for funding regards to play area and memorial garden; more schools to be approached; market park to wider community |
| Threats | Lack of resources to sustain increase in staffing; Friends of group may diminish in numbers; lack of available funding for signage and future interpretation |
| Healthy Safe and Secure | |
| Strengths | Well defined paths; regular surveys of paths; risk assessments up to date; improving grounds maintenance; interested Friends of 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, keeping notice board up to date; increase the number of events; develop accompanied school visits; increase information at accesses |
| Threats | Standard of grounds and general maintenance; Friends of group may diminish |

SWOT ANALYSIS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Well Maintained and Clean | |
| Strengths | Condition surveys of park carried out annually; promotional programme regards to schools and public education being discussed; grounds maintenance specified to BS 7370; commitment from staff and Friends of group |
| Weaknesses | Limited finances to keep staff on site on a permanent basis |
| 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 |
| Sustainability | |
| Strengths | Active involvement of staff in promoting environmental statement and policy; Friends of group and operative staff involved with discussions of draft management plan |
| Weaknesses | Potential for recycling and/every kind of waste on site still to be fully investigated; lack of promotional material for public |
| 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 of group members and other volunteers together from time to time; promote appropriate events; produce info for public; establish more ranger posts |
| Threats | Lack of officer/operative time to progress and complete practical objectives |
| Conservation and Heritage | |
| Strengths | New visitor centre now open; easy access for the public; it is an attractive site; good range of habitats on site; detailed surveys for species of flora and fauna |
| Weaknesses | Staff presence not permanent; more interpretation needed for visitors |
| Opportunities | To promote the sites special qualities particularly to habitat variation and industrial heritage; potential to be an excellent resource for schools and other groups; potential to create an information point, perhaps in the future visitor centre; |
| Threats | Lack of resources going into future years |

SWOT ANALYSIS

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Community Involvement | |
| Strengths | Friends of group meet monthly with officers; council funded Ranger posts; marketing plan outlined; park focussed events planned; local volunteer groups utilised |
| Weaknesses | Few, if any young people/disabled involved in the Friends of group; need more comprehensive park users numbers and visitor data to use as a baseline for marketing plan |
| Opportunities | Promote Friends of 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 |
| Marketing | |
| Strengths | The marketing plan is now being updated; 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 retaining the 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 have thus been missed |
| Opportunities | To dedicate an amount of the advertising budget to the park; to include the park in other advertising about events, national, regional and local including Green Flag website; staff to talk to visitors at every opportunity about what events are 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 for extra wear and tear on the site as a result of increased events and use; failure to retain Green Flag status |

SWOT ANALYSIS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Management | |
| 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 | Achieving 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 Gedling and the wider community |
| Threats | Lack of commitment, staff time, and material resources to forward objectives as planned |

FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Revenue Funding

The Revenue funding budget for the park's grounds maintenance for 2022/23 is £50k

Staffing Structure

The parks development function is controlled by the Parks and Street Care Services section. The Head of Environment is assisted by the Parks Development Officer and 2 full time Urban Park Rangers whom carry out a vast majority of the work.

Parks and Street Care offer occasional support for larger projects but this has reduced due to Covid and staffing levels.



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 normal scheduled work program and allows for the early alteration of the Urban Park Ranger's and Friends of group work programs.

Although the plan will be reviewed annually, it will be comprehensively revised every 5 years to ensure its content remains relevant and up to date with the Council's policies, vision and objectives.



Gedling Country Park opening day with very proud Council Staff and Members

PLANS FOR 2022

As outlined in the parks 'Action Plan' it is the intention to continue to develop and improve the park, and as such, provide opportunities to as many local Schools, volunteers and patrons to access the site. This will be implemented with help from the Friends of group, and local & corporate volunteers.

Significantly we will undertake a 'Tree Condition' survey on the park to fit in line with the Action Plan and to sit alongside similar reports from other parks in the Borough. We plan to improve the content of the parks webpage and consult with partners on the future developments of the park in the coming years. The Gedling Country Park Long-term Aspirational Plan (2020-2030) will shape future developments.

Major developments for 2020/21 saw the Spring Lane Car Park extended to two-hundred spaces with an additional fifty spaces available at Lambley Lane Recreation Ground. Landscape Viewing platforms have also been constructed to the north and south of the solar panel farm and an outdoor seating area built outside the Café.

In 2022 through to 2024 we aim to plant a new Memorial Woodland and develop the 'Green Lung' woodland that will link Digby Park with the Country Park. The aim is to plant approximately 6000 trees throughout both sites and have a pathway linking them so that public can extend their walks and open up more green networks.

Additional aspirations will also include the potential installation of a Sand Martin Bank and Bird Hide around the lower lagoons. Exploratory grounds works have already begun around the proposed site with the intention of securing initial tenders bids before trying to secure funding via. Severn Trent. The 'Memorial Inspirational Tree Circle' is now planned to be delivered in 2022/23 having identified a suitable site.

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

**Gedling Borough Council
Parks and Street Care Department
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

Mrs Jane Richardson

Parks Development Officer jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk

Gedling Country Park Action Plan 2020-2025

Aim 1: To provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Improve parks signage | Carry out annual audit of signage. Investigate providing some braille interpretation panels | PASC Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | | | | Asset Management bid | Braille panels still being researched. Several new Interpretation Panels now installed 2019 and a further three are planned for 2022. |
| Ensure equal access for all | DDA Compliant Access Audit | Parks Development officer | | ✓ | ○ | | | | Existing revenue budgets, Officer time | Audit completed 2021. Recommendations being actioned. |

Aim 1: To provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|----------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------|----------|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Ensure access points to the park are maintained | Regular inspections of all access points, ensure clear of litter and are welcoming. | All Park staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | | | | PASC Revenue budgets | |

Aim 1: To provide an Accessible and Welcoming Park

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|---|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Highlight parks and inclines descents. | Create a site gradient map for park users to ascertain severity of inclines | PASC manager Parks Development Officer, | | | ○ | | | | Officer time | To be developed and added to existing map |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------|---|
| | | Comms | | | | | | | | |
| Using Social media to reach a wider audience particular when access points are temporarily closed | Use Facebook/Twitter to keep the public up to date with information about site works | PASC manager Parks Development Officer, Comms | | | | | | | Officer time | Information can be regularly given to public to keep them better informed |
| Show key experiences that are on offer | Include more images of the park, showing people enjoying 'key experiences' on offer | Comms, PASC manager Parks Development Officer Rangers | | | | | | | Officer time | This would help potential visitors get a visual understanding of what is on offer at the park |

Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|--|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Ensure the park boundaries are in good condition, regularly assessed and actioned | Repair any damaged fences. Schedule surveys | PASC Development officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | Inspections are currently undertaken monthly and issues resolved |
| Ensure the parks' paths, roadways and car park surfaces are in good condition. No slip trip or fall hazards | Continually review pedestrian safety in the park. Prune shrubs to allow for good visibility | PASC Development officer Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | Inspections are currently undertaken monthly and issues resolved. |
| Ensure the park is safe and secure | Regular Neighbourhood Warden, Police Community Support Officers and Ranger patrols in the park | Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing staffing resources | Park Rangers work on site most days of the week. |

Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Prevent ASB | All acts of ASB are monitored, discussed and actioned | Community Safety Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | |
| Inspect all tree stocks to ensure they do not present a current or future hazard | Visual Inspections (In House) are undertaken quarterly throughout the year | PASC Manager and Parks Development officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Visual inspections are being undertaken and Tree Officer appointed 2022 to undertake Condition Surveys. |
| Ensure requirement of the HSAW Act 1974 are adhered to during all parks operations and activities | Regular staff toolbox talks with re safety issues and formal health and safety training. Risk and COSHH assessments of all operations and activities are carried out. | PASC Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | Friends of group carry out Risk Assessments and submit them to Park Rangers as and when needed. |

Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Improve drainage parks | Carry out repairs to identify damaged or blocked drains | Technical Officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | |
| Ensure lagoon boundary railings are safe and secure | Carry out repairs to identify cement footings that are exposed and repair fencing where necessary | Technical Officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Boundaries to be re-evaluated on completion of the GAR works |
| | Investigate the possibilities of installing mesh fence around the lagoons to prevent dog access | | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | | | | Existing revenue budgets | Conduct investigation alongside the GAR Route construction |

Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|---|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Promote use of park for commercial fitness initiatives and or other entrepreneurial businesses | Work with businesses to develop park use for Boot Camp training exercise classes | Parks Development Officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Officer time for administration | Several licensed groups are operating such, fitness initiatives within the park. |
| Provide facilities and activities that encourage the pursuit of a healthy life style | Encourage fitness groups to use the site such as 'Park Run' and the ramblers association. Explore avenues of Council led activities | Exercise promotion Officer from Leisure Services Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | Park Run each weekend. Orienteering is also promoted on the park by means of a dedicated map. |

Aim 2: To ensure the park is healthy, safe and secure

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|---|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Monitor the stability of the pit tips | Arrange regular pit tip inspections to monitor the stability of the ground and methane levels | Notts County Council, PASC Service Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing Revenue Budgets, Officer Time | |
| Ensure suitable wheelchair access into park. | Re-Develop access to remove stiles and replace with suitable gates | PASC Department | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | | | | Existing revenue budgets | DDA Complaint Access to direct any other issues, but two wheelchair/disability gates now installed from new housing developments. |

Aim 3: To provide a well maintained and clean park

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|--|--------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Provide a clean and well maintained park environment | Carry out weekly inspection of the park by onsite staff and immediate response to litter/vandalism | Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | Extra Park Ranger presence is now assisting this further |
| Empty and clean litterbins | Empty and clean bins on a daily basis | PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing Revenue budgets | |
| Provide clean well maintained benches and seats | Audit all benches and seats in the park, Implement a rolling programme of maintenance | PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing Revenue budgets Officer time | Memorial plaques now allowed on benches, revenue is used for their maintenance. |
| Provide a well maintained park environment | Grounds maintenance to be carried out to BS7370 and in accordance with the Landscape quality manual and operational procedures | PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Officer time | |

Aim 3: To provide a well maintained and clean park

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|--|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Inform public of 'Emergency contact' numbers | Provide contact numbers to report litter, ASB, Crime and graffiti and any other concerns for the users of the park in the parks notice board. Including out of hours numbers | Public, PASC & Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Emergency contact numbers are up in the notice boards |
| Minimise the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery | Explore avenues of recycling bins on site for visitors. Continue to utilise cattle grazing on the park. | Public, PASC & Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Recycling bin installed outside Café. |
| Incorporate wider Tree Management plan to Gedling Country Park | Continue to develop the Council-wide 'Tree Management Plan' to outline future maintenance requirements and recommendations | PASC Service Manager Parks Development Officer Park Rangers | | ■ | ○ | | | | Existing revenue budgets | New Tree Officer will now be managing the tree stock of Gedling Country Park. |

| Aim 4 To enhance the sustainability of the site | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|---|
| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Increase Ecological value of the park | Identify areas within the park for wildflower meadow habitat creation and create more bare earth scrapes | Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Many meadow areas have been identified and areas have been created. Bare earth scrapes have been developed with the Friends of Group; providing funding and assistance. |
| Develop Tree Woodland Plan in the park to ensure the environmental sustainability of tree species within the park | Using tree species survey to reflect good diversity of trees within the park | PASC Development officer and Park Rangers | | ■ | ○ | | | | Existing revenue budgets | Woodland Management Plan being developed with aid of the new Tree Officer and the with assistance of Friends Of group. |

Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|--|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| To ensure environmental sustainability | Follow good horticultural practices, such as minimising peat use | PASC Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets Environmentally friendly | Trees and other flora sourced from local nurseries |
| Reduce CO2 emissions | Installation of solar panels on new buildings to be explored | Facilities Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Sustainability budget | Solar panels installed on Café roof during construction |
| Encourage recycling | Explore possibility of further recycling with the park. Re-use all chippings on site as mulch | PASC Park Rangers Parks Development officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | All wood chippings to be used on site. Recycle bin installed outside |
| Sustainable sourcing of timber | Ensure all procured timber products meet the requirement of FSC Certification, or are from an accredited supplier. | PASC Officers & Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | |

| Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed ✕ = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Reduce environmental impact through transportation | Source all goods as locally as possible to reduce the need of delivery transportation/ Shipping. | PASC Officers & Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | |
| Minimise the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery | Pruned/cut or fallen wood and grass to be made into bug habitats within woodland/meadow | PASC Officers & Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | |
| 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 | |

Aim 4: To enhance the sustainability of the site

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Livestock grazing on the park | Continue to utilise cattle grazing on the park, with a view to make this more permanent. Consult with local farmers | PASC Service Manager, Parks Development Officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Livestock on site from September 2016. Number of cattle increased in 2022. |
| Investigate the development of the visitor centre extension with sustainability credentials | Continue to investigate the development of the visitor centre with Nottingham Trent University Students | PASC Service Manager Parks Development Officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Visitor centre/cafe construction now completed. Further extension is a current aspiration. |

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

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Ensure appropriate management of the Environmental, conservation and heritage features | Carry out the recommendation s in the 5 year Ecological plan – a copy is available during the field assessment. | Parks Development Manager | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing Revenue budgets | Tasks are undertaken by all park staff and the Friends of group. |

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

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|--|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Develop a Community Orchard | Identify area on site to develop a Community Orchard planted with Heritage Species of Apple, Pear Etc. | Parks Development Rangers and Friends Of group | ○ | ✓ | ○ | | | | Existing Revenue budgets | Community Orchard developed with assistance Friends Of group in 2021/2022. Further interpretation needed when final heritage species available. |
| Investigate a quiet area for Prayer and Reflection in Woodland | Identify area on site in which, to plant a circular outline of trees. | Parks Development Rangers and Friends Of group | ■ | ○ | | | | | Existing Revenue budgets | Site identified and due to be completed 22/23. Further details in 10 Year Aspirational Plan. |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| Interpret mining history, ecological interest and renewable energy sources on site | Commission new interpretation boards to be positioned around the site at suitable locations. Relative societies to be consulted | Parks Development Team Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | | | Existing Revenue budgets | New interpretation panels continue to be installed as site is developed. |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|

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

| Objectives | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|--|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Increase the provisions of Art on site | Liaise with appropriate 'Friends Of' members and the general public as to their preferences for future installations | Parks Development Team Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ○ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Memorial Garden Sculpture and bespoke benches installed in 2018. Nature Trail Sculptures also delivered 2018. 2021 saw two new wooden sculptures delivered for the Tree Trail |

Aim 6: To Develop the Park as a focus for the Local Community

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Encourage the local community to be involved with 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 Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Ranger led meetings with the Friends Of group now occur monthly and objectives of both parties are discussed openly. |
| Increase Friends of group membership | Help promote the group to increase awareness and membership | Parks Development and Park Rangers Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Enlisting new members has been hampered during the Covid-19 pandemic |

Aim 6: To Develop the Park as a Focus for the Local Community

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|---|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Identify wider community involvement and use of the park | Carry out yearly surveys to identify wider community involvement in the park. Encourage private sector use i.e exercise class | Parks Development and Park Rangers Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Yearly Surveys have been undertaken |
| Provide opportunities for training of Friends of group | Assist friends in fund raising by arranging a fund raising workshop. Ranger training in use of hand equipment and Health and Safety at work | Park Rangers Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | |
| Assist Friends of group via marketing | Friends of stall at the Arnold Carnival | Park Rangers FOG | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Friends Of group now promoted through GBC Web-page |

Aim 6: To Develop the Park as a Focus for the Local Community

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|--|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Encourage local involvement | Provide opportunities for schools/local people in environmental tasks | Park Rangers, Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Schools, Girl Guides, Duke of Edinburgh and volunteers utilising facilities for education. |
| Facilitate, where possible, the provision of artwork on the park | Consider recommendations following 'City Arts' consultation process and the resulting report to provide a range of artwork on the park | Park Rangers, Parks Development Officer and Friends Group | ✓ | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Several new sculpture had been installed in 2018 and form part of a nature walk. Two new sculptures also added along the Tree Trail in 2021 |
| Considerations to be given to a natural 'Amphitheatre' | Consider recommendations of 'City Arts' consultation to provide a natural Amphitheatre. | Park Rangers, Parks Development Officer and FOG | ✓ | x | x | | | | Existing revenue budgets | Conflicts of interest between this and ecological conservation has halted this action. |

Aim 6: To develop the park as a focus for the local community

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|--|---|--|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Encourage the use of the park as a setting for sport | Continue to work with Leisure Services, the Gedling Sports Partnership and Sport England to facilitate events on the park | Parks Development Officer, Friends Group, Leisure Services | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | Park Run is a huge success on the country park attracting on average 139 people per event. An orienteering course had been established in 2019. |

Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| 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 of Green Flag website. | Communications officer, Leisure events and arts officer, Neighbourhoods team, Parks Development, Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ○ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC and Leisure budgets | Parks profile has been raised by featuring in local media |
| Establish events linked to cultural/sport themes and National Initiatives | Establish annual events on the parks in line with experiences gained from other Gedling Borough owned parks | Communications officer, Leisure events and arts officer, Neighbourhoods team, Parks Development, Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ○ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC and Leisure budgets | Park Run is huge success on the country park and an orienteering course has been established in 2019. |

Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|--|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Establish events linked to environmental themes | Support the Friends of group to host a variety of environmental events, along with children's activities and nature walks. | Communications officer, Leisure events and arts officer, Neighbourhoods team, Parks Development, Park Rangers | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC and Leisure budgets | Many environmental themed events by both the Rangers and Friends Of group have been delivered. Bat Walks, Bird Boxes Etc. |
| Promote the park and its facilities | Achieve regular coverage in the local media, press, radio and television. Ensure notice board information is up to date. | Communications Officer, Parks Development, Park Rangers. | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC and Leisure budgets | |

| Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed ✕ = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Explore the possibilities of QR codes on new interpretation panels | Liaise with appropriate bodies and designers to explore this avenue | Communications officer, Parks Development Park Rangers | ✕ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | QR codes now in use on The Tree Trail. |
| Deliver the GBC Green Spaces Strategy | Prioritise and action the Green Spaces Strategy to provide good quality open space provisions | Leisure officer, PASC Manager, Development Officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing revenue budgets | |

| Aim 7: To Increase Awareness of the Park via Marketing | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|--|
| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed ✕ = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 22/23 | | |
| Revise and upgrade Parks website page | Continually review online information and change where necessary. Investigate ways to improve visitor experience using I.T. Facilities | Communication Officer, Parks Development, Park Rangers & Arts development officer | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue budgets. Officer Time | Judges' comments implemented. Links to Friends Of Web-page introduced 2019/2020. |

Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|---|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Short term | Continue to attract capital funding for improvement through section 106 and external funding bodies such as Gedling Homes and 'Awards For All'. | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue & capital budgets. 106 contributions | Update 106 database. Record capital bids at earliest opportunity. Be mindful of grant monies that may be drawn down by the Friends group. |
| Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Long term | 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 Green Spaces strategy. Identify areas for future 106 and Capital realms projects |

Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management

| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed x = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
|---|--|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Quality assessment | Review management practices to ensure efficient working methods | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue budgets | Lean management principals ongoing due to future budget reductions required. |
| Ensure a viable financial base for maintenance and development – Income streams | Explore opportunities for revenue generation (e.g. Hiring and regular private sector use of parks) | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue budgets | |
| Ensure effective implementation of management plan | Park based rangers responsible for implementing and co-ordinating management | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | Monthly Parks Development/Parks Rangers meetings to progress tasks in place |

| Aim 8: Implementation of Effective Management | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Objective | Action | Lead | Delivery ✓ = Action Completed ○ = Action in progress ■ = Action proposed ✕ = Action not completed | | | | | | Resources | Comments |
| | | | Year 20/21 | Year 21/22 | Year 22/23 | Year 23/24 | Year 24/25 | Year 25/26 | | |
| Ensure effective implementation of management plan – Identify current and future priorities | Monthly site walkabouts established | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue budgets | Monthly Parks Development/Parks Rangers meetings to progress tasks in place. Monthly site walkabouts |
| Ensure effective implementation of management plan – Green Flag preparation | Annual review of Management Plan and Action Plan progress | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue budgets | Monthly meetings to discuss management plan to ensure sections are reviewed on a rolling basis and updated as the year progresses |
| Ensure effective implementation of management plan – | Regular meetings between Friends group, park staff, | PASC Manager, Parks Development Officer, Parks Rangers, PASC Staff | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | Existing PASC revenue budgets | Encourage and develop effective partnership working practices |

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|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Enable Friends of group to generate funding | Continue to provide advice and support to the Friends of group when applying for funding and fundraising for themselves | Parks Development Team, Friends of group | ✓ | ✓ | ○ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | Provide letters to authorise future maintenance and support its projects and help with third party funding applications |
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