

Mayer Park Management Plan

2019 - 2024
(Updated January 2024)



**Parks & Countryside Service
Wirral Council**

Management Plan written by:	Date:
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Management Plan Updated by:	Date:
Carl Davies	January 2024

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1. Introduction

This management plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of Mayer Park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions, or if you wish to join the Friends of Mayer Park please contact:

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Park and Countryside Service
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32 Conway St
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CH41 4FD**

Telephone Number: 0151 606 2004

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2. Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Delivery Services Department of Wirral Council.

The content and structure of the Management Plan has been informed by the following guidelines:

- A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space, 2004)
- Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, 2014 – 2024
- Wirral Plan 2020
- Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016)

2.1. Corporate Objectives

The Council's Vision is that Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here.

The Wirral Plan sets out a series of 20 pledges which the council and partners will work to achieve by 2020, focusing on three key themes:

- protecting the most vulnerable
- driving economic growth
- improving the local environment

To find out more information about the 20/20 vision visit:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision>

2.2. Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

The department's role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough in order to influence investors to operate their businesses and encourage new investors. Parks and countryside site maintenance and land uses will be re-aligned where appropriate to achieve resource and economic efficiencies whilst promoting health, social and environmental benefits to our communities.

The Parks and Countryside Service have produced a 10 year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that will inform and direct the next 10 years for the service (running from 2014-2024). It is available online at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-development-and-maintenance>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to attract and retain investment in the borough through provision of attractive and well managed parks and open spaces, whilst being accessible; and providing positive and healthy activities for all local people, communities and visitors to enjoy. The service also intends to contribute to the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of Wirral to achieve a good balance by protecting habitats while supporting economic growth.

3. Mayer Park

3.1. Description and location

Name: Mayer Park.

Primary classification: Local Park

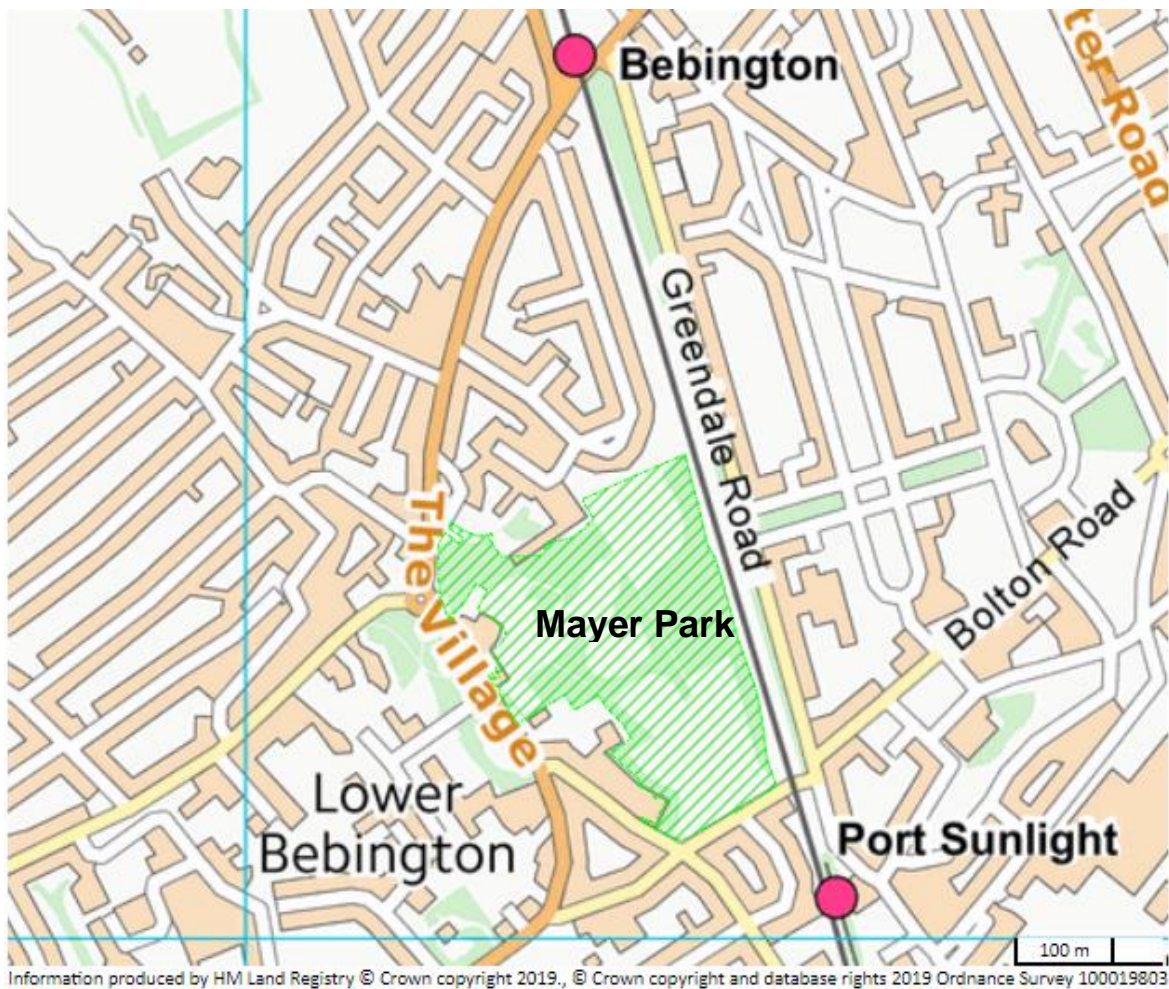
Grid Reference: 333297, 384237

Address: The Village, Bebington, Wirral.

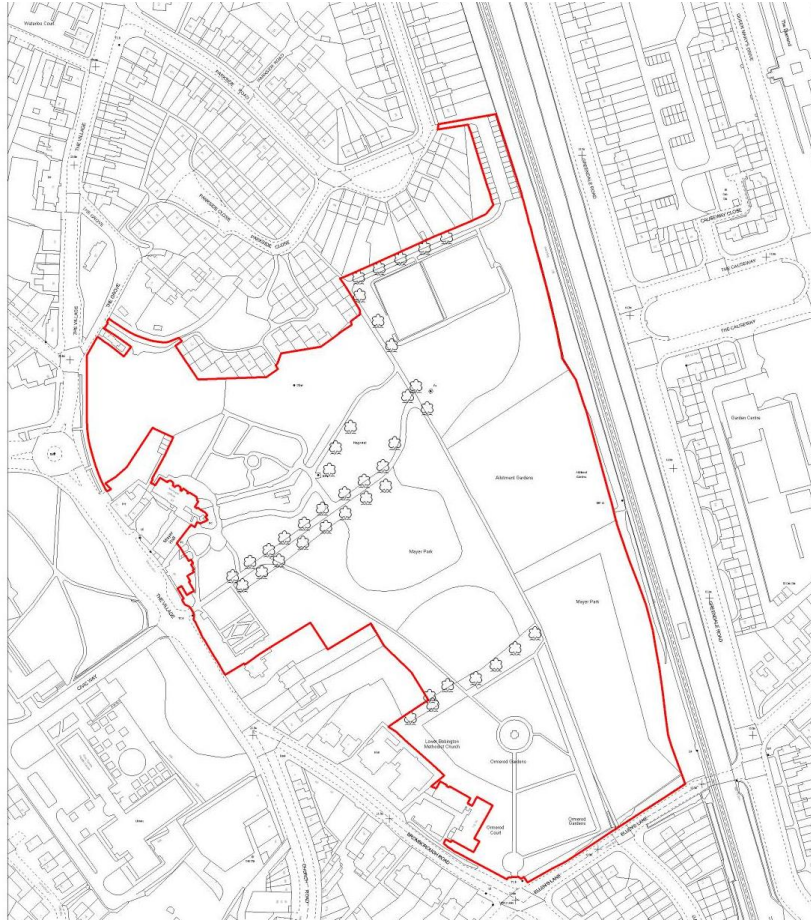
Ward: Bebington

Size: 7.52 Hectares

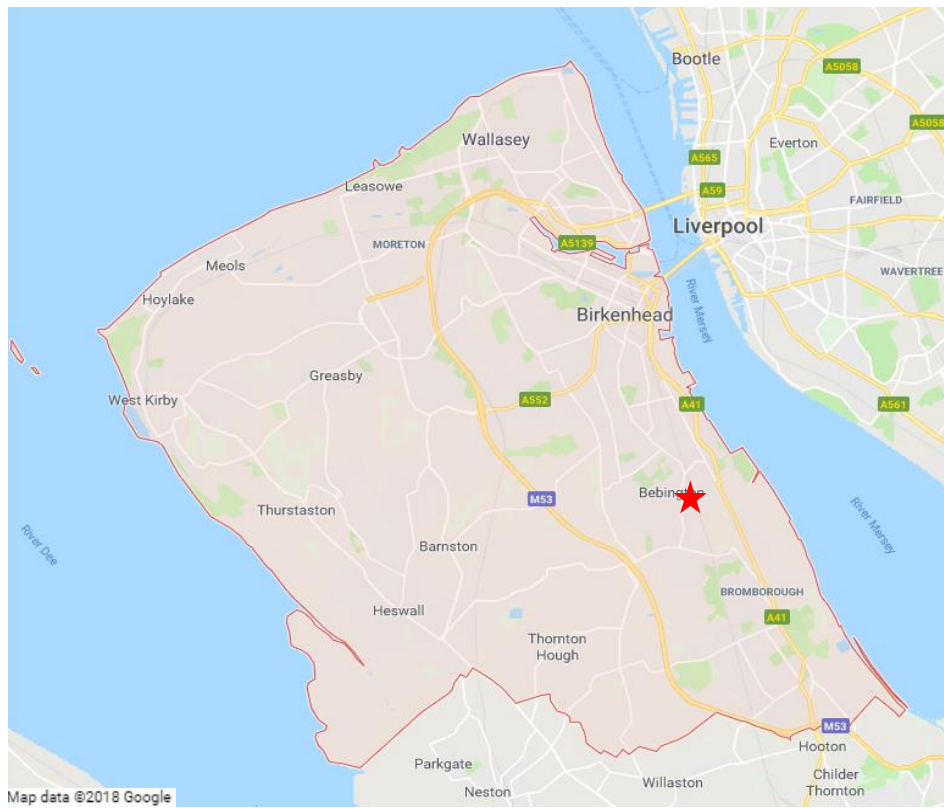
Location Plan:



Mayer Park location



Site plan of Mayer Park



Mayer Park (marked as red star) in the Wirral Peninsula.

3.2. Facilities and features

Main facilities and features:

- Children's play area
- Former rose garden
- Box hedge feature known as the 'knot garden'
- Mature tree and shrub stock
- Football goal end
- Seating, including memorial seating
- Former allotment site nature area
- Historic features

3.3. Tenure

Mayer Park is owned and managed by the Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Community Services Department.

3.4. Users of the park

The park has a wide user demographic including:

- Families and children
- Youth Groups
- Play area users
- Dog walkers
- Recreational users
- Educational resource facility for local primary school children
- Hobbyists (including nature, history etc.)
- Joggers
- Picnics
- People walking as a through route
- Friends activities/volunteering
- Wirral South annual firework display location

3.5. Partner Organisations

Partners and stakeholders:

- Friends of Mayer Park
- Joseph Mayer Community Partnership
- The Joseph Mayer Trust
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Council Community Safety Team
- Wirral South Constituency Committee

3.6. Designations

Mayer Park is located inside Lower Bebington conservation area, one of 26 such areas found across the Wirral. A Conservation Area is defined in section 69 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Area) Act 1990 as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the

character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. For more information see: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/built-conservation/conservation-areas/lower-bebington-conservation-area> . The map of the conservation area can be found in Appendix 2.

3.7. History

Joseph Mayer a world-renowned philanthropist moved to Bebington in 1860 and became a local benefactor to the community. Mayer purchased a farm next to his home Pennant House with 7 acres of land. He went on to develop the farmhouse into a Free Library and its land into a Public Park for the Bebington community, both being opened to the public in April 1869. He also built Mayer Hall around 1879 as an Art Gallery, Museum and Public Hall. On his death in 1886 he bequeathed these precious facilities in the form of The Joseph Mayer Trust who managed them up until 1930 when ownership transferred into the Bebington District Councils care.

The Mayer Park was designed as a tree and shrub park with a variety of exotic trees and shrubs. The main avenue was planted with a line of Horse Chestnut trees either side. Joseph having attended a dinner in St Georges Hall Liverpool in honour of Charles Dickens returned to Bebington and renamed the avenue on the 10th April 1869 Charles Dickens Avenue.



Modern times

Mayer Park has been added to over a period of time. In 1901 Bebington District Council purchased Mayer's old home Pennant House, to accommodate their Offices. Pennant House gardens were incorporated into Mayer Park in 1902 and a stone was laid to commemorate this act.

In the mid 1950's the land between the old Pennant garden and the bottom of Heath Road was compulsory purchased by the Council, whereupon the buildings were demolished and the land was incorporated into the park.

Ormerod Garden on Ellen's Road (built in 1927) was also incorporated into Mayer Park sometime around the 1950's or 60's.

4. Green Flag Assessment

The intention is for Mayer Park to achieve the standards as defined by the Green Flag Award Scheme; further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflagaward.org.uk

4.1. Assessment Criteria

The current condition of the Park has been assessed using the following criteria as defined by the Green Flag Award scheme:

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Well maintained and clean
4. Environmental management
5. Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing and communication
8. Management



Main entrance from The Village

Mayer Park's action plan can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

4.2. Assessment

4.2.1. A Welcoming Place

Access

Mayer Park is very conveniently located for public transport, near to main bus routes with the nearest stop located on The Village, next to the main entrance. It is also close to both Bebington and Port Sunlight railway stations see www.merseytravel.gov.uk for times and routes.

There is plenty of adjacent on-street parking on Ellens Lane and Civic Way. There is a small public car park on The Village, and a larger one to the rear of the shops in Church Road.

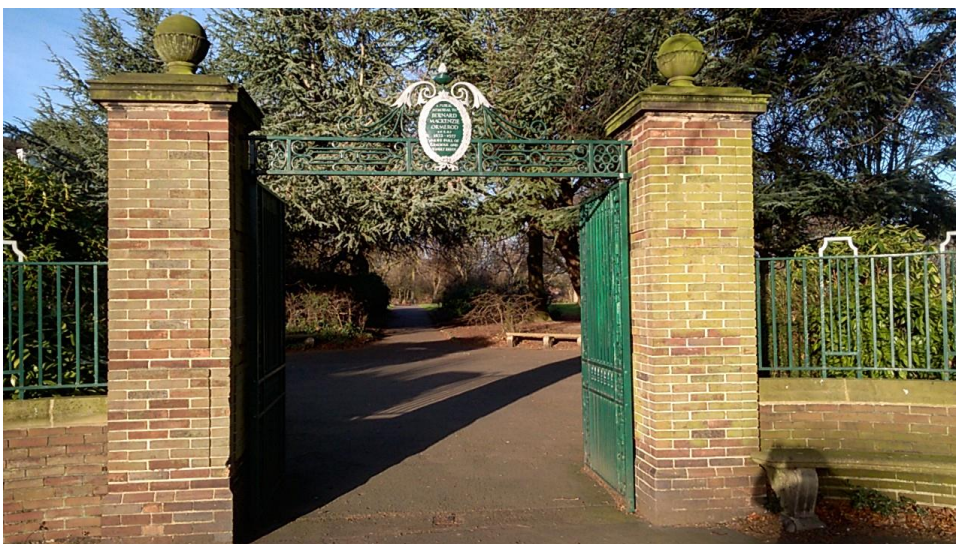
A network of tarmac paths run through the site, providing access that is suitable for wheelchair users. Paths are maintained on a rolling programme according to need.

Entrances and Information boards

The site has main entrances on The Village and Ellens Lane. Secondary entrances are located on The Village, Ellens Lane, Parkside Road and The Grove.

The Village: There is heritage sandstone walling with feature sandstone gate pillars. A new entrance board was erected here in 2014 and a new display cabinet was installed adjacent to the main drive in 2015. The cabinet is used to provide information from the Wirral Council and the Friends of Mayer Park.

The main entrance at Ellens Lane features the Ormerod Memorial Gate (1927) that underwent a complete restoration in 2015.



Ormerod memorial gate feature (1927)



Plaque commemorating Bernard Ormerod

Public toilet provision

Public toilets are available in the adjacent Civic Centre.

4.2.2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

This management plan details ways in which the council and its partners endeavour to keep the park and surrounding areas safe, secure and of good quality. For Wirral Council's Health and Safety general statement of Intent see Appendix 3.

Dog Fouling

The park is very popular with dog walkers, with the vast majority presenting no issue to the park or its users. However, we know from the evidence produced from the Wirral Parks Survey (2012) that dog fouling and dogs off leads are a major concern for park users in Wirral.

The whole of the Wirral Council area is designated under Dog Control Orders that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Enforcement officers from Wirral Council working in partnership with Kingdom Security, environmental protection division will issue a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice to anyone caught not cleaning up after their dog. For further information visit

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/dog-fouling>

The park has signs at entrances and other locations indicating it is a 'clean it up' area. Dog walkers are advised to wrap the droppings and place in a litterbin. Dog fouling is classified in law as litter for street cleaning purposes, and can be disposed of in Council litterbins. 'Dog waste only' bins are not provided on site by the Council. The park is very popular with dog walkers and most do clean up after their dogs.



“Clean it up” tarmac surface markings

Anti-social behaviour

Wirral Council operates a 24 hour Community Patrol force who responds to concerns regarding anti-social behaviour on Council owned land. The Patrol can be contacted
On: 0151 666 5265.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council’s Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the area parks manager for each relevant ward. Incidents at the site are very few and far between.

Graffiti checks are carried out daily and graffiti is removed as soon as possible by parks staff.

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Provision for health: children’s play area

The children’s play underwent a complete refurbishment in 2016 to incorporate two new picnic benches; the area is well used with a good range of equipment.

The play area is fenced and incorporates a dog free grassed area.

All play equipment is inspected daily by onsite staff and weekly by RPII (Register of play inspectors international Ltd) trained staff and an annual safety inspection is carried out by an independent assessor.

This information is available from <http://www.playinspectors.com/>



Mayer Park Children's play area

Dog-free and smoke-free play

Wirral council has signed up to a voluntary 'Play Smokefree' code. The aim is to de-normalise smoking so that children are discouraged from taking up the habit in later years.

The 'Play Smokefree' code is being run by the charity 'Heart of Mersey' with Wirral Council and NHS Wirral. Special signage designed by Hayfield School pupils has been installed in the play area asking that children be allowed to 'Play Smokefree'.

The play area is also designated 'dog-free'. This is shown on the play area signage and on the tarmac at the entrance points.



Children's play area signage

4.2.3. Well maintained and Clean

Resources:

- Local Area Team Leader and Area Parks Manager
- Annual parks revenue budget
- Parks planned preventative maintenance (PPM) budget
- Wirral South Constituency funding
- Occasional income from external grants
- One site-based member of staff (housed in shared accommodation with caretakers at the Civic Centre)
- A range of horticultural machinery and tools
- Visiting mobile maintenance staff
- In-house arboriculture team
- Appointed arboricultural contractors and surveying
- Friends Group volunteers

Staff and their functions

The Area Parks Manager and the Local Area Team Leader are responsible for the management and maintenance of the site. The site is in the Wirral South operational area.

A site-based member of staff (shared with the Civic Centre, St Andrew's Church and Pennant House) maintains the site and undertakes a range of grounds maintenance operations including grass cutting, shrub bed maintenance, hedge cutting and litter removal. Parks staff also undertakes a daily inspection.

Tractor-mounted equipment is used for the volume grass cutting.

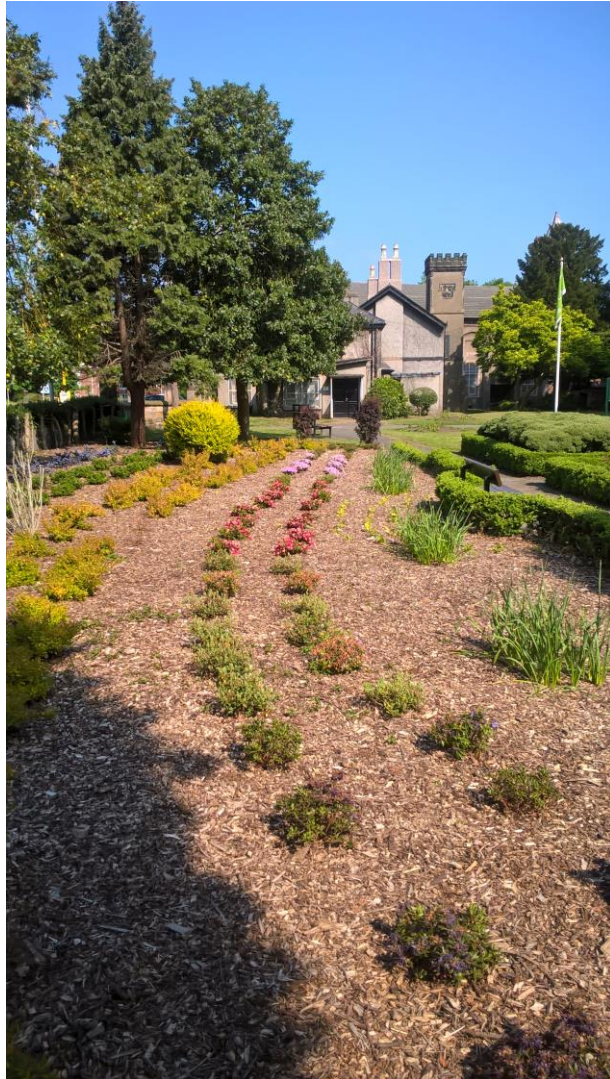
Horticulture Maintenance

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency-based work programme allied to the parks general service requirement (Appendix 4). A work programme is issued to staff on a quarterly basis; these are used for identifying all maintenance operations on the site and the required standards.

Horticultural maintenance is further augmented by the Friends of Mayer Park, during their volunteer working parties. In particular they maintain specific restoration projects within the park, namely The Knott Garden, Village Road bed, Wirral in Bloom bed and the Rose Garden.



The Knott Garden



The Village bed

Arboricultural Maintenance

In 2016 staff from Wirral Parks Service completed a tree risk zoning exercise. At the time of writing it is proposed that trees in 'high risk' zones will be the subject of annual inspections, for example trees in play areas or next to major roads. Full proposals are awaited.

In 2018 a parks and countryside tree policy has been produced (See Appendix 5).

Potentially hazardous trees are reported by parks staff as part of daily patrols to the Local Team Leader/Area Manager whereupon any urgent Health & Safety work is undertaken as required.

Conservation and amenity tree work is identified as required and recorded on a site specific risk assessment/job sheet and included within the tree works programme on a priority basis. See Appendix 6.

A tree safety survey was undertaken in March 2018 to several trees within the park showing signs of concern. The survey was conducted by an independent approved arboricultural surveying contractor, who recorded specific details on the species, height, crown spread and exact location before commenting in detail on the state of trees health. Any safety recommendations identified were then actioned by appointed arboricultural contractors to Wirral Council.

Details of the survey and maps can be found in Appendix 7.

The Park is due to resurveyed every 3 years (next survey due 2021).

Hard and soft landscaping inspections

Site based staff carry out regular inspections to identify defects that might present a safety problem for staff, users and adjacent residents. Any issues are reported directly to the grounds maintenance supervisor and the local area team leader.

Members of the public and the Friends Group also report problems on a day to day basis; they provide an 'eyes and ears' service which supplements the work of paid staff, and represents a valuable contribution to the running and the security of the park.

An annual parks safety inspection checklist (excluding the children's play area) is completed on an annual basis, with the following items appraised:

- Paths, steps, ramps
- Walls, fences, gates
- Furniture – signs, seats, litterbins
- Soft landscape – grass, planted areas
- Trees

The Local Area Team Leader produces a joint work programme, to coordinate the work of park staff and volunteers.

Litter management

A suite of 9 heritage-style litterbins was provided by the Local Authority through Wirral South Constituency funding in 2014. The litterbins are assessed on an annual basis through the annual safety inspection checklist, conducted by the Local Team Leader.

Litter inspections are undertaken on a daily basis by the on-site parks staff member and are further supplemented by the Friends of Mayer Park on their volunteer working task days to

include Saturdays. Park users themselves will often pick up litter and deposit in nearby bins that are emptied on a regular basis, as and when required.

4.2.4. Environmental Management

Wirral parks and countryside team put sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery. Our key commitments are:

- Improve our sustainable performance
- Comply with environmental legislation
- Purchase sustainably
- Use natural resources sustainably
- Travel sustainably
- Minimise waste
- Manage land sustainability
- Raise Awareness
- Work in partnership

These key commitments are adhered to in all of Wirral Council's parks, including Mayer Park. For full details of the sustainability aims see Appendix 8.

Energy, water consumption and emissions

There is no water supply at the site, other than a disused stand-pipe in the former allotment gardens.

All vehicles and plant have comprehensive maintenance regimes carried out by operational support services and the parks service workshop technicians.

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Chemical use

Chemical storage and usage complies with requirements as defined in the current herbicide handling legislation. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment records of all chemicals are retained at Warren Farm Depot.

Herbicide use is minimised, and a Biograde Amenity glyphosate is used to treat weed growth where necessary.

Green and general waste

The majority of horticultural waste generated at the park is currently left on site in the nature area, to provide habitat piles. All grass clippings are left in situ.

Shrub and tree pruning's are wood chipped and re-used on site. Any mixed waste is removed to the Warren Farm depot, with any metal objects found on site recycled.

Peat Usage

Annual bedding for the park is bought in and is produced, to the Council's specification, using compost that is 100% peat free.

Invasive Species Management

In May 2017 an audit was completed for Parks and Countryside to identify invasive weed species that are covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, schedule 9. Small pockets of Japanese Knotweed have been identified in Mayer Park, adjacent to the railway line. These areas are treated with an appropriate herbicide, with the application records stored at Warren Farm Depot.

For the Wirral Councils policy see here:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/grass-cutting-and-ground-maintenance/wirral-council>

Transport

The park is well served by public transport, and it is an aspiration to provide pedestrian signage to the site from nearby railway stations.

Climate Change Adaption

Wirral Borough Council has a climate change adaption strategy, which has two main goals:

- to substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral
- to adapt Wirral to unavoidable climate change

The strategy and yearly progress reports are available here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-climate-change-strategy>

The progress report for 2018 can be found [here](#).

Mayer Park puts sustainability at its heart of every decision. An example is selecting a replacement species for the mature horse chestnut that were lost on the main driveway from The Village (Dickens's Way) due to bleeding canker disease, which has spread throughout western Europe due to changing climate conditions. American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) was selected as a replacement and to further enhance the biodiversity of tree species within Mayer Park.

4.2.5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Heritage

The Lower Bebington area that includes Mayer Park was designated as a conservation area in 2014. Mayer Park and the adjacent buildings (Mayer Hall and Pennant House) are at the heart of this designation and is now part of a community asset transfer agreement.

Although the buildings are not part of the Green Flag application, this move has the potential to make a significant difference to the future fortunes of the park.

A plaque on No 65 The Village commemorates the fact that Nathaniel Hawthorne mentions the area in his writings from 1853.



Pennant House and Mayer Hall

Main heritage features:

- Sandstone gate pillars and perimeter sandstone walls
- Ormerod memorial gate
- Ormerod house memorial
- Avenue markers
- Dickens' Avenue – a Victorian avenue of horse chestnuts
- Mayer Trust Stone
- Mature tree stock
- Pennant House garden
- Former rose garden
- Knott Garden
- Nature area (former allotments site)
- Adjacent Mayer Hall (not part of the Green Flag application)
- Circle of glacial erratic stones



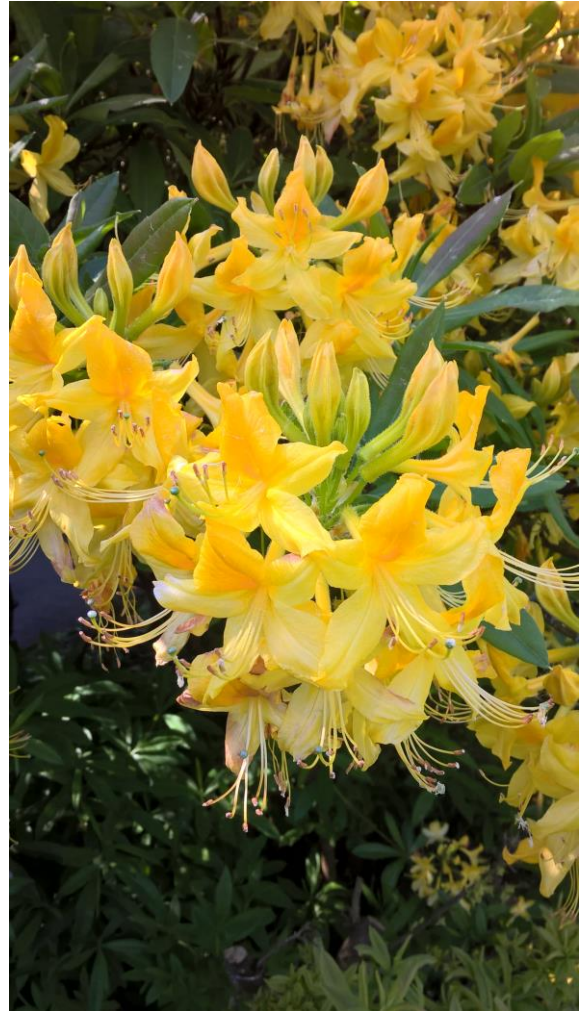
'Stone Circle' feature

Biodiversity

There are many mature trees and shrubs on the site which play an important part in the wider visual landscape of the area, as well as providing a biodiversity resource. There are less intensively managed areas along the railway which provide a haven for wildlife including small mammals, birds of prey and foxes.



Red horse-chestnut (Aesculus carnea) flowers attracting pollinating bees



Scented flowers of Azalea

The former allotment gardens have been allowed to develop back into a natural area for the benefit of nature conservation. An informal path running through and to the rear of the site (adjacent to the railway) is maintained to allow a limited amount of access for people to enjoy this peaceful part of the site. A full biodiversity audit of the nature area would be beneficial to assist with the management of the site, with an audit planned for 2019.



Location of nature area inside Mayer Park

4.2.6. Community Involvement

Partners and stakeholders:

- Friends of Mayer Park
- Joseph Mayer Community Partnership
- The Joseph Mayer Trust
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Council Community Safety Team
- Wirral South Constituency Committee

The role of stakeholders

A Wirral Green and Open Space Strategy day stakeholder workshop was held in 2013 to discuss the following topics: the ten year vision; the future role of the Council, Friends Groups, volunteers and other partners; and the health, education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and economic benefits of green and open spaces. The workshop summary can be viewed on the Council website.

In 2013 a new 'Parks and Countryside Partnership and Performance Board' was launched, with membership from a range of stakeholders. The Board assesses and gives feedback on reports about the performance of Wirral Parks and Countryside Service, measured against agreed performance standards and indicators from the Green and Open Space Strategy.

Parks Forum and Friends newsletter

Wirral's Parks Friends groups are invited to attend a Park's Forum, which is held twice a year. This is an opportunity for groups to network and share experiences. Collectively the Friends of Wirral Parks produce a quarterly newsletter with contributions from all friends groups.

The Mayor holds a Civic Reception at the Town Hall each year in recognition of the efforts and contribution made by Friends and community groups toward the management and development of the Borough's parks.

The Friends of Mayer Park

The Friends of Mayer Park was formed on 4th December 2013. The group came about by the desire of people in the Bebington community who use the park to bring Mayer Park back to its former glory and enhance the benefits of the park to the wider community through engagement, education and action. They are a constituted group with a bank account, and their own events insurance. The group are covered by the Council's insurance when carrying out work that has been approved by the Area Manager or the Local Area Team Leader on behalf of the Parks and Countryside Service.

The Friends of Mayer Park meet regularly on Thursday and Saturday mornings to perform practical tasks and occasionally on weekdays in the summer, and they run a small programme of events.

The group produced its own document 'Going Forward' in June 2014 which identifies a number of ideas, objectives and challenges. Many of these ideas have been incorporated into this plan, and it is the intention that this management plan will act as the focus for all those involved, to contribute to the future development of the park.

The Friends produce an informative leaflet about Mayer Park and volunteering opportunities that is freely available.

In addition the Friends of Mayer Park have their own Facebook page, where regular information is shared about meetings and park information.



Bulb planting task by the Friends in December 2018



Restoration and replanting of The Village bed

Regular site meetings alongside an annual management plan review meeting will be held between the Friends and the Local Team Leader/Area Manager as part of the Green Flag annual re-application process.

Aims of the Friends Group

The aims of the Friends Group are to work alongside Wirral Council to:

- manage the park effectively
- develop community involvement
- restore and improve heritage features
- bring affordable events to the park
- educate and enlighten local people about the history, heritage and wildlife of the park
- promote health, fitness and inclusion
- research the history and legacy of the park

Wirral South Constituency Committee

The Wirral South Constituency Committee (made of 15 elected members and five community representatives) has formally agreed the following as one of its 3 priorities between 2014 and 2019:

‘Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location’.

Events

The most significant event of the year in Mayer Park is the Parks and Countryside annual firework display which regularly attracts over 3000 people.

Wirral Council advertises upcoming events at Mayer Park at: <https://wirralview.com/whats-on>

The Friends run a small programme of events, and take part in a yearly 'Heritage Open Days' event – when they run guided walks and welcome visitors. The event is publicised on the Council's 'Visit Wirral' website: <http://www.visitwirral.com/whats-on/heritage-open-days> and on the popular local 'Wirral History and Heritage' website: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

4.2.7. Marketing and communication

Marketing and Promotion

Mayer Park is widely advertised with site information available across many different platforms:

- Wirral Council website: Includes information on opening hours, facilities, access information, contact details and link to the Green Flag management plan for the site.
- Green Flag Award website: Information regarding parks facilities, contact information, history and things to see and do.
- Visit Wirral Website: Wirral's tourism website, which advertises events such as the Mayer Park annual firework display.
- Wirral Globe: Local newspaper and online news. Advertises the annual fireworks display
- Mayer Trust Website: A charitable trust which gives largely historical talks throughout the year. The website mentions Mayer Park and provides a detailed historical account of its origin.
- Friends of Mayer Park Facebook Page: Gives details of meeting locations, alongside pictures/information on what the friends have achieved in the park.
- Friends leaflets: Leaflets produced by the Friends (and other partners) to promote the park and volunteering opportunities.
- Noticeboards: Events and site information is displayed locally on the noticeboard

Mayer Park was recently included in the Wirral Council "Measured Miles" initiative as part of "LoveParks" week in 2018. The scheme sets routes across a number of our local parks, all one mile in length, and was seen as way of encouraging an active lifestyle and working towards achieving the recommended 150 minutes of exercise a week. The initiative is a good way of promoting the park for activities such as walking, running or dog walking. The route map and descriptions can be found in Appendix 9.

Wirral parks survey

This was undertaken in 2012 to find out what visitors think about their parks, beaches and countryside, and to inform management of Wirral's Parks. The survey's findings were incorporated into the Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014-2024, for full details see here:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-development-and-maintenance>

Important general information was learned from the survey including the following:

- Peak times for use are afternoons, followed by mornings and evenings. Evening use is greater on weekdays than at weekends. The majority of visits are from half an hour to two hours. Around one in five people visit for more than two hours.
- One sixth of Wirral people visit parks, beaches and open spaces for events. A quarter said more events would encourage them to use these places more.
- Less dog fouling and more and better toilet provision stand out as the top two things that people say would encourage them to use parks, open spaces and beaches more, with 53.7% and 46.5% of responses respectively.
- Almost three quarters of people rate Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces as having a very good or good standard of cleanliness and being maintained in a very good or good condition.

Since then Mayer Park has adopted dog control measures such as restricting dogs in the play area and consistent signage on cleaning up after dogs, with additional bins provided throughout the park. Toilet facilities are available in the adjacent civic centre. And event advertising is increasing with council and friends events advertised locally and online on platforms such as Facebook or the Wirral View.

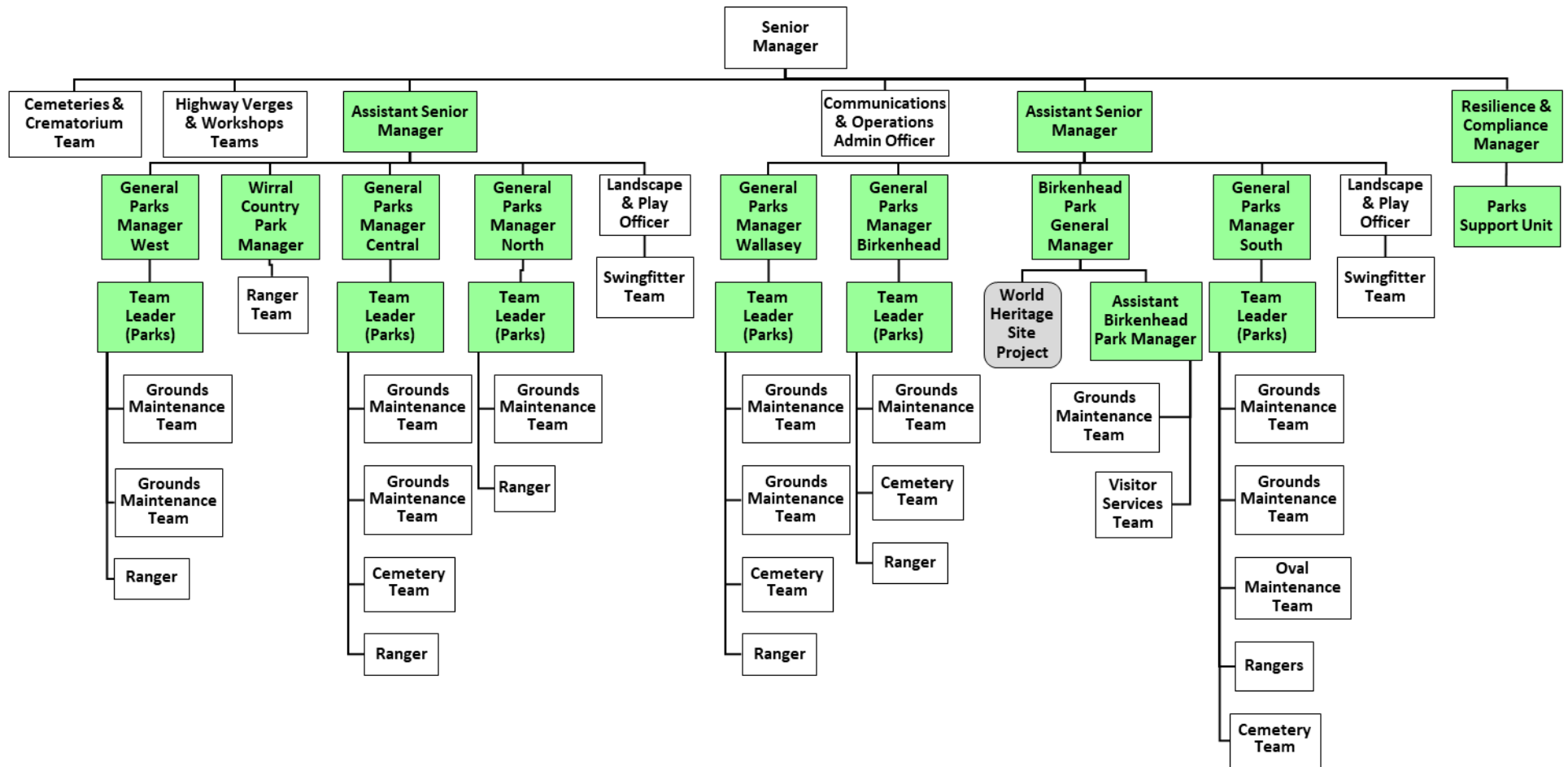
4.2.8. Management

The Local Area Team Leader and Area Manager for Wirral South district are responsible for the management of the park.

It is the intention that this management plan will act as the focus for council staff, elected representatives, Friends Groups and other stakeholders, to contribute to the future maintenance and development of the park.

Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the park can be made directly to the Area Parks Manager on: **0151 606 2004**. Email: streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements. The Parks and Countryside Service is going through a restructure in 2021. The diagram below shows the current structure.



2021 Wirral Parks and Countryside Service organisation chart.
Mayer Park falls under South Wirral.

5. Appendices

The site was judged in 2023.

The following is the report for 2023 including the General Managers responses and actions planned.

Green Flag Judge's feedback



FEEDBACK REPORT: 2023-24

Name of Site	Mayer Park
Managing Organisation	Wirral council
Date of Assessment	06/07/2023

OVERALL RESULT	Pass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT

Strengths and recommendations are provided for each criteria.
 Photographs are included, where appropriate, to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.
 Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual [here](#) for further information on the criteria.

DESK ASSESSMENT

(Management plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation		Management plan is not a reflection on maintenance being carried out with in this park space Noted- Management Plans are getting re written all the time, this one for Mayer Park is due for a full overhall in 2024 for 2025-2030,

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Health, Safety & Security	Site is secure park is viewed from all Angles	
Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings & Landscape		Building not being maintained to standard - NOTED- This building is not our building and is asset managements. Not part of the park.
Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism	Clean site for litter, No signs of Vandalism	Additional litter bins would be advised for this site Noted – We do not have a litter issue at this location, so we only refurbish and replace bins when required.
Environmental Management	No issues	
Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage	Strong friends' group active with protective approach to Buildings and Heritage	Continue with potential investment with main building potential for investment from pub Brewery NOTED – The buildings are out of our control and they support when they wish too via the friends group.
Community Involvement	Strong Friends group	
Marketing & Communication		All groups need conversation regarding park maintenance and the way forward NOTED – We have regular meetings with the Friends Group and allocate budgets to achievable projects.
Overall Management	Lacking in progress	Park is not being Managed correctly NOTED – Thank you for your comments, The park has a robust management team in place and an excellent friends' group. We would argue this comment is unfounded and inaccurate.

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Location is a strong Addition for this park	Need to Address declining maintenance all round Noted – Maintenance has changed over the last 2 years due to budget constraints, this is highlighted in the management plan.
Healthy, Safe & Secure		Declining maintenance will be a main factor in the security & Safe aspect for visites to this park NOTED – we have had no reports of safety risks nor antisocial behaviour on site, we have open sidelines, clean views and nice walking routes including a Nature area on site.
Well Maintained & Clean		Maintenance has dropped getting close to being below green flag standard NOTED – Park was clean on the day of judging (see desk feedback from Judge) Although the park does adopt a different mowing regime than in past years, the increased benefit for Environmental and biodiverse impacts is clear to see and positive for the site.
Environmental Management		None NOTED – We have several environmental projects on site, to say NONE is an ignorant comment, we partake in NoMowMay a national Environmental project and we also have larger swathes of grass lands due to mowing regimes, We also have an excellent Nature are that is being developed with the Parks Management and Friends of Mayer Park.
Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage	Maintenance for buildings & structure Maintained	We have no buildings that we manage in the park.

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Community Involvement	Very strong friends' group	Need more involvement from Management group NOTED – We meet and have conversations weekly with our friends group, we support projects and lead in activities.
Marketing and Communication		All parties need to Discuss way forward NOTED – We meet frequently with the friend's group, weekly updates are posted on the friends social media pages, communication between the parks management team and the Chair and treasurer of the friends group is strong.
Management		Management need to re-address going forward NOTED

Summary and additional comments: (Highlighting the result, and the main areas of strength and recommendation)
<p>Park space is going into a forward Decline regarding Maintenance needs Addressing Friends group active with limited resources but require assistance No Mow May is having a Detrimental effect on overall appearance of park Needs noting park score is 66 this is a reflection of the overall look at the park and only for Active friends group park would have failed green flag Please address points NOTED – But also noted was the negative attitude of the Judge, not taking onboard that Wirral Council does not use Glyphosate to spray weeds in shrubs and on paths, the judge was informed of our policy regarding this which was ridiculed. A Policy that we must deliver are instructed by our Councillors Committees and Wirral Environmental Emergency which was introduced in 2019., Regarding the lack of environmental management and the No Mow May having a negative impact of the site, this is the judge's opinion, we are proud to be involved in the NoMowMay initiative.</p>

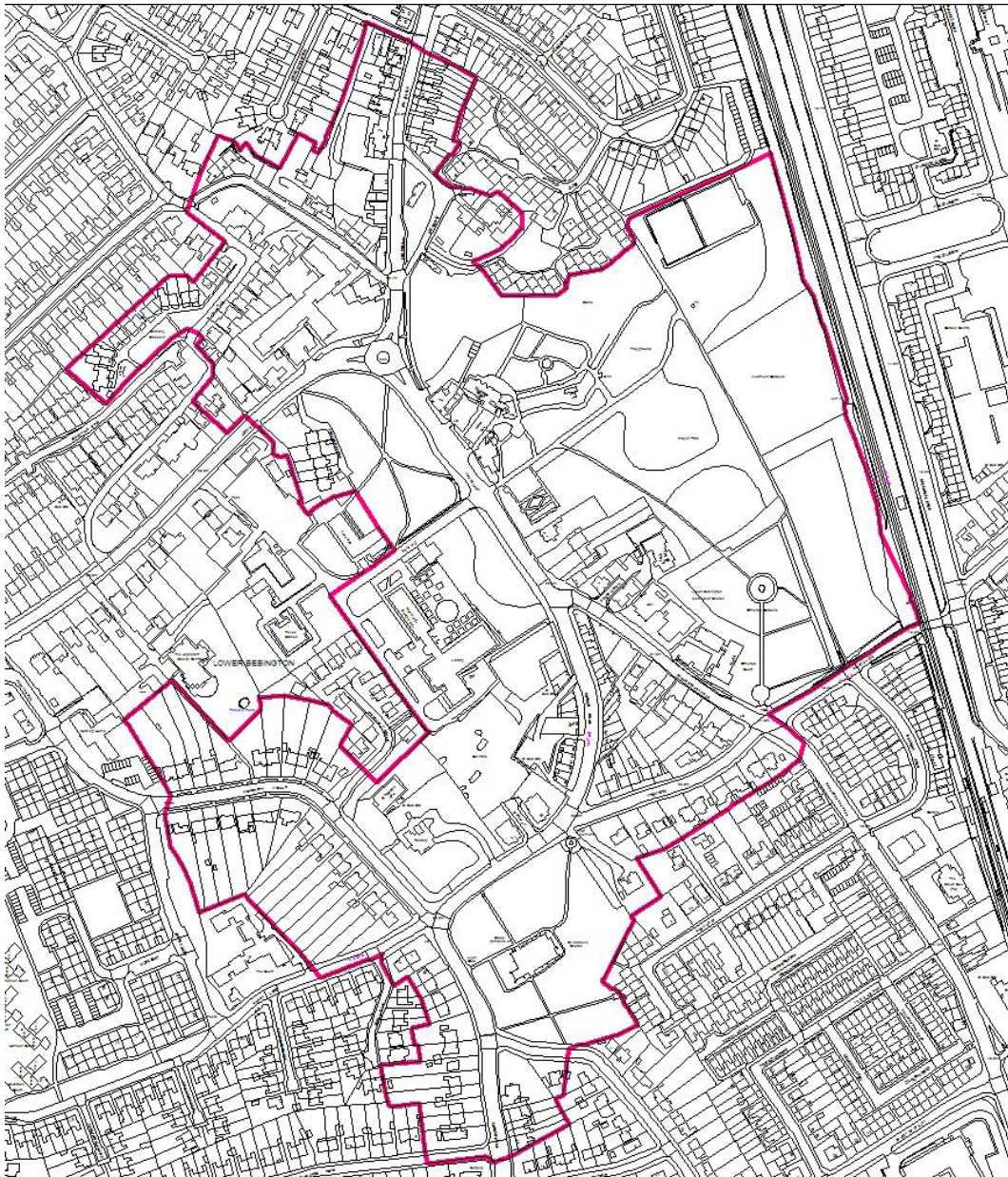
Appendix 1: Action Plan

Action	Lead officer	Target date	Resource	Action completed
1. A Welcoming Place				
Provide display cabinet at the main Ormerod Gate entrance	Local team leader/ Landscape	2019/2020	Within existing resources	✓ 2020

	officer			
2. Healthy, safe and secure				
Monitor levels of anti-social behaviour occurring in the park reporting all incidents to Police	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Remove tree stumps	Local Team Leader	2019/2020	Within existing district budget	√ Winter 2020/21 Ongoing
Carry out tree and shrub pruning programme	Local Team Leader/Friends	Annual program	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Undertake basic tree inspection for Health and Safety purposes and produce programme of works	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Undertake detailed tree safety survey by appointed arboricultural contractor	Local Team Leader/ contractor	2019/2020	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Undertake Tree safety survey of trees in nature area	Tree Risk Team	2021	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Produce a tree replacement program	Local Team Leader/ Landscape officer	2019	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Produce audit of footpaths and timetable a repair programme	Local Team Leader /Landscape officer	Ongoing	Additional resources required	Ongoing
3. Well maintained and clean				
Painting all park railings on rolling programme	Local Team Leader/ Landscape officer	Rolling programme	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Repaint play equipment	Landscape officer	Rolling programme	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Produce joint work programme for Mayer Park volunteers	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Rolling program of maintenance to the litter bins within Mayer Park	Local Team Leader/ Landscape officer	Ongoing	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
4. Environmental management				
Continue to source non-peat based compost for bedding plants and other plantings within the park	Local Team Leader/ Landscape officer	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
Reduce the use of herbicide applications within the park	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
Continue to manage identified invasive weed species within Mayer Park in line	Local Team Leader	Annually		√ 2022 √ 2023

with current policy and retain chemical application records.				
5. Biodiversity, landscape and heritage				
Undertake a biodiversity audit of the nature area.	Biodiversity Officer	2019	N/A	√ 2021 (in conjunction with Wirral Wildlife Trust)
Taking into consideration report by Wirral Wildlife Trust, undertake works program to improve wildlife value of nature area	General Parks Manager	2021 - 2025	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Plant hawthorn hedge along boundary of nature area (former allotments).	Local Team Leader /Friends Group	2019	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Extend hedgerow in nature area to include different species	General Parks Manager	2022	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Take part in annual Heritage Week	Friends group	Annual	N/A	Ongoing
Produce a tree species survey	Local Team Leader	2019	N/A	Ongoing
Assemble historic information	Friends Group	Ongoing	volunteers	Ongoing
Restore or partly restore Ormerod Memorial on Ellen's Lane Entrance	Friends Group in conjunction with General Parks Manager	2021	Constituency Funding	Completed
Ensure conditions are met in relation to removal of trees in Conservation Areas	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
6. Community involvement				
Support user groups to engage in fund raising and events	Local Team Leader/Area Parks Manager	Ongoing	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Work in conjunction with Parks Partnership to achieve the Green Flag Award	Local Team Leader/ Area Parks Manager/ Friends of Mayer Park	Ongoing	Within existing district budget and fundraising projects	Ongoing
Undertake bulb planting in grass areas	Friends of Mayer Park	2018/2019	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
Support Friends of Mayer Park in specific restoration/maintenance projects to include financial support	Local Team Leader/ Friends of Mayer Park	Ongoing	Within existing district budget	Ongoing
7. Marketing and communication				
Improve information about Mayer Park on the Wirral Council website	Local Team Leader/ Biodiversity Officer	2019	N/A	Ongoing
Update information noticeboards i.e. measured mile project and Friends events	Local Team Leader/ Friends of Mayer Park	Ongoing	N/A	Ongoing
8. Management				
Annual review of management plan actions as part of the Green Flag reapplication process	Local Team Leader/ Friends of Mayer Park/	Annually	N/A	Ongoing

Appendix 2: Lower Bebington Conservation Area boundary Showing Mayer Park



Appendix 3: Wirral Health and Safety General Statement of Intent

General Statement of Intent

Wirral Council accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and all subsequent regulations.

The council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees, visitors, contractors and any other persons affected by its undertaking.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, to ensure that departments comply with this commitment through the implementation of a robust management system that seeks continual improvement in the health and safety performance of the council.

The council's objectives, so far as health and safety is concerned, are to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable:-

- Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe.
- Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
- Sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety at work.
- A safe place of work with safe access to and egress from it.
- A healthy working environment and adequate welfare facilities.

All staff should be aware of their responsibilities contained within this health and safety policy and report any unsafe acts or situations to an appropriate officer.



Eric Robinson
Chief Executive

Date: 25th February 2015

"There is nothing so urgent or important that we cannot take time to do it safely"

Appendix 4: Parks and Countryside Service general service requirement

Parks and Countryside Service General Specifications applicable to Mayer Park

Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection

Collect and remove litter and refuse from all of the sites included within the service requirement. In the case of adopted highway verges this responsibility is limited to the occasions immediately prior to grass cutting activities. Government guidance and Regulations for the disposal of noxious or hazardous waste, for example empty chemical containers or 'sharps' shall be followed.

Inspect and empty all litter bins, and dispose of the rubbish, clear all litter from around each bin.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not specify frequencies, and this requires the requisite standards to be maintained by:

- ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
- programming works effectively
- applying resources appropriately

Litter control shall conform to the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006).

The park shall be maintained to Grade B standard in accordance with the Code of Practice Part 1: litter and refuse

- Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

The maximum response time to restore to Grade A standard (no litter or refuse) if it falls below Grade B shall be 1 day; this means by 6pm the following day.

Ensure that all staff uses their reasonable endeavours to collect and minimise the effects of litter on the sites, whenever it is encountered in the pursuance of their duties, whether or not those duties are primarily litter control.

Sweeping and cleansing

This requirement is applicable to all surfaces other than grass within all sites. The entire surfaces of all tarmac, concrete or paved areas, rubberised surfaces and tiles, including play facilities and safety surfaces and other surface areas including loose surfaces such as bark and shale shall be kept clear in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006) to Grade B standard.

Sweeping, including gutters and drainage channels within the surface areas, shall be carried out by appropriate methods that do not damage or disrupt the surface.

Surfaces shall be washed down whenever necessary in order to maintain a clean and useable area.

All paths and hard surfaces shall be swept at even intervals and be kept cleared of grass cuttings following mowing operations.

All slippery surfaces caused by whatsoever nature, shall be made safe by the removal and / or treatment of the hazard.

All hard surfaces shall be maintained in a substantially weed free condition including moss and algae growth.

Fallen leaves

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

- main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
- visitors' centres and attractions
- ornamental grass areas
- soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders
- surfaces within play areas
- grass sports pitches and facilities
- all weather sports pitches and facilities

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- in good horticultural condition
- and / or useable for sports play
- and / or with a safe, well drained hard surface

Any leaves that have accumulated into drifts or are unsightly or damaging to plants and bulbs shall be removed as a priority.

The operation shall be carried out frequently throughout the autumn in order to facilitate shrubbery and rose bed cultivation, and to prevent leaves from spreading back onto lawns, paths, hard surfaces, sports and horticultural features. Where necessary, after leaf clearance, beds shall be lightly pricked through to remove footmarks.

The final clearance of all autumn leaves shall be completed by the end of December in each year of the contract period.

Graffiti and fly-tipping

Information on graffiti and fly-tipping shall be collected. Data shall provide such data to the Service Manager on a weekly basis as part of his weekly exception reports.

Data for incidents of graffiti shall include:

- date
- location
- surface type
- paint type
- description including offensive characteristics

Offensive or racist graffiti shall be reported as a priority. This shall be reported to the Service Manager within one hour of identification, to enable this to be removed by the Employer's specialist operator within 24 hours.

Fly-tipping shall be defined as any single quantity of tipped material that cannot be lifted by two members of staff and removed from the site. If tipped material can be lifted by two members of staff, it is deemed to be covered by the litter control clauses of this service requirement.

All instances of fly-tipping shall be reported to the Service Manager.

Grass maintenance

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

All grass cutting machinery used across the entire range of standards shall be appropriate and fit for the purpose of achieving the specified standard.

On each occasion that grass cutting takes place the following shall be achieved:

- an even, uniform sward to the requisite height across 100% of the surface area, including all obstacles, grass margins, weed growth, seed and flower spikes and bents.
- Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
- any litter subsequently shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be collected and removed

Should grass exceed the maximum permissible height, the grass shall be brought back into conformance by frequent repeat mowing.

The edges of turf adjacent to hard surfaces, cut backs, planted borders, beds, channels and kerbs shall be kept maintained to a neat even line. On each occasion of re-cutting all finished bed edges shall be sharp, neat and vertical.

In the case of ornamental lawns all cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings, no matter where they fall, shall be removed for recycling or reuse immediately on completion of the operation.

All cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings across the complete spectrum of grass mowing operations which land on hard surfaces, shrub borders or flower beds shall be cleaned up and removed immediately on completion of mowing.

Arisings that fall on general grass/amenity grass, highway urban verges and rural verges shall not normally require removal, unless excessive growth has occurred, in which case arisings shall be collected and removed for recycling or reuse.

Unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan, grass areas over naturalised Narcissus, Galanthus and Crocus bulbs etc, shall remain uncut from the commencement of the grass cutting season to the third week in May, unless the bulb leaves have died down sooner, at which time the grass and bulb tops shall be cut and removed and the areas brought into conformance with the surrounding areas. Subsequently these areas are to be maintained to the same standard as the rest of the area.

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the Service Manager, the height of cut shall be adjusted so as not to cause added stress and damage to the sward. If grass growth is at a standstill an obligation remains to control grass and weed flower spikes by cutting.

On resumption of mowing operations after adverse weather conditions have caused them to cease, ensure that a return to the appropriate standard is achieved by increasing the frequency of mowing.

Please see Appendix 10 for the Grass Maintenance Schedule.

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass

Premium ornamental areas and ornamental areas shall be maintained so that they are substantially free from weeds, coarse grasses, moss and algae by cultural methods and the application of approved pesticides. Cutting machines shall be cylinder type for fine turf maintenance. For premium ornamental areas the arising's shall be boxed off and recycled or reused. For ornamental areas there is no requirement for boxing off arising's.

All premium ornamental and ornamental grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:

- Minimum height 8 mm
- Maximum height 15 mm

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass maintenance shall include all necessary:

- pest, disease and weed control
- fertilising
- scarifying
- aeration
- rolling
- irrigation
- seasonal renovation

General/amenity grass

All general/amenity grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:

- Minimum height 25 mm
- Maximum height 60 mm

Hard landscape infrastructure: hard surfaces – roadways, pathways, car parks; parks and green spaces site infrastructure – benches, lighting, fencing, walls (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

Undertake a rolling programme of condition surveys of the hard landscape infrastructure of the park.

Hard surfaces weed control

Undertake a programme of strimming on all hard surfaces including roads; footpaths, car parks, steps, ramps and bridges Including the bases of all walls and fences where adjoining hard surfaces, along kerbstones and around landscape and park furniture

Hard surfaces gritting, salting and snow clearance

Hard surface gritting, salting and snow clearance is required to ensure that, where reasonably practicable, safe passage along a road or footpath is not endangered by snow ice.

Although there is no requirement to treat all roads and footpaths there are locations where this is required. The sites and areas to be treated are limited to those where essential only access

is required which includes to cemetery chapels, access for planned burials, visitor and community centres and known problem locations and hazardous gradients.

Treatment shall include pre-treating to prevent ice from forming and post treating when ice has formed, or snow has accumulated.

Benches and seating

All benches and seating, including picnic benches & tables, shall be kept clean at all times, and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material.

Fences, railings, walls, gates, handrails, stiles, boardwalks, revetments and bollards

Any minor repairs such as loose bolts, protruding nails and sanding of sharp edges shall be undertaken. All other repairs must be reported to the team leader.

Defects which represent a hazard that cannot be repaired immediately must be made safe until an effective repair can be undertaken.

Regularly maintain gates, locks and mechanisms to ensure good working condition.

Notice boards and signs

Keep all signs, signposts and notice boards clean at all times and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material of construction.

Shrubs, roses, herbaceous planting

Maintain shrub beds attractively presented, free of litter, weeds, other unwanted vegetation, and pests and diseases. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

Shrubs shall be maintained by pruning and training using the best horticultural practices to allow the development of each shrub in keeping with its habit, location and purpose.

Cultivation work in weather or ground conditions that would be harmful to the soil condition and its structure shall not be undertaken.

Observe that the purpose of pruning is to establish a strong framework of branches, keeping the shrubs healthy and vigorous, maintaining the size, shape and balance, whilst ensuring the maximum amount of flowering wood and fruit are produced.

Carry out the pruning of individual shrubs and roses appropriate to the requirements of each species or cultivar.

Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental

Maintain all ornamental and non-ornamental hedges to their previously cut height, width and shape, ensuring that the top and sides of each hedge are cut neatly so that all growth is removed to the point of the previous cut on the old wood. Maintain hedges to ensure the safe and free flow of motor traffic along adopted highways and other vehicle routes, and to ensure the safe and free flow of pedestrians and cyclists along adopted highway footpaths and all other access routes across sites.

All trimmings shall be removed for recycling or reuse.

The base of the hedge shall be left clean, tidy and vegetation free on every occasion the hedge is cut.

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

Where requested by the team leader proposals for replacement, renewal and new planting of shrubs, roses and hedging shall be submitted.

Children's play areas

Play areas shall be inspected, maintained and repaired to ensure that they are safe and all equipment is in working order in accordance with the relevant British Standard or other relevant standard.

Refer to British Standard EN1176 Part 1-7 and 1177 and to the RPII (Register of play inspectors international Ltd) for guidance on all aspects of play area and play equipment maintenance; in particular, their information sheets for:

- inspection and maintenance of playgrounds
- regular inspection of playgrounds
- legal aspects of safety

This information is available from <https://www.playinspectors.com/>

Inspection shall be recorded either manually or electronically and logged with the Employer within the week following the inspection. Only trained and competent staff, who have attended a recognised and appropriate course run by RPII or similar training body, shall carry out maintenance operations which shall be undertaken in a safe and thorough manner.

Minor repairs and adjustments shall be carried out to play equipment, gates and safety surfacing to ensure that they are safe and usable at all times including weekends, bank holidays and public holidays. Any play equipment, gates and safety surfacing that cannot be repaired immediately shall be made safe until an effective repair is undertaken.

Minor repairs shall include replacement of swing seats, chain, links, bearings, and loose-fill safety surfacing and rubber tiles.

Major repairs identified during the inspection shall be reported immediately to the Service Manager.

Painted and timber surfaces must be treated on a regular basis to ensure good condition and presentation. This includes all play equipment, gates and furniture.

Arrange for an independent annual recorded inspection of all play areas by RPII or similar accredited organisation. The inspection shall be a full mechanical and physical examination and include a risk assessment for each play area and indicate compliance with the Equality Act.

Public Safety

Store all equipment and materials in a safe condition and provide and display the necessary warning signs/barriers to ensure public safety during cleaning operations.

Remove any graffiti as part of the cleaning operation.

Comply with all the responsibilities and requirements on waste collection and disposal.

Inspect the premises after each cleaning operation and notify the team leader immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

Trees and woodland

All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 'Recommendations for tree work'. Be responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations, including Tree Preservation Orders that would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.

All persons employed to undertake tree work, shall be suitably trained and qualified and shall be in possession of appropriate certification.

Consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc that are either adjacent to or on the work area. These are to be preserved in good condition and make all necessary arrangements to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the team leader.

Include for stump removal and subsequent surface reinstatement following tree felling in highways locations. Stumps intended for permanent retention should be cut at a specified height and left free from snags.

On completion of all tree work ensure that the work area is thoroughly cleaned and is left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work shall be disposed of. The only exceptions to this shall be at woodland locations where the team leader may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site. The team leader may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching, or creating footpaths or bridleways.

Refer to section 'Waste management including recycling of biodegradable waste' (green waste).

All trees and woodland – emergency and out of hours call out service

Provide a 24 hour, 365 days a year, emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs that have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. A response unit consisting of a minimum of two suitably trained staff with appropriate vehicle and equipment shall be provided within one hour's notice following notification of an event by the team leader or emergency services authority. Incidents of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Provide sufficient labour, vehicles and equipment required for emergency tree work operations. Heavy lifting equipment and cranes will need to be obtained as soon as reasonably practicable for special operations.

Trees in parks

Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses and all adjacent land and neighbouring properties are not at unreasonable risk

from possible failure of trees. As part of the regular site health and safety inspections assess and act on any tree related risks.

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboricultural management

Undertake reactive management of selected trees in parks, green spaces, golf courses, cemeteries and churchyards in response to hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/result/?q=trees>

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – replacement and renewal

Undertake occasional requests for commemorative and other tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces.

Vandalism and third-party damage (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

Work with community stakeholders and partner organisations to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour in sites covered by the service.

Soft landscape

Rectify minor incidents of vandalism or third-party damage to soft landscape features including trees, planted and grassed areas within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

Hard landscape infrastructure

Rectify minor damage to fencing, gates, walling, furniture, signage, notice boards, lighting and surfacing and other hard landscape infrastructure resulting from any act of vandalism or third party damage within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor damage caused by any other source. Minor damage shall be defined as requiring no more than 1 hour of labour per occasion to rectify with a minimal requirement for materials.

For more significant incidents of vandalism or third-party damage make safe immediately.

Appendix 5: Parks & Countryside Tree Policy

Parks & Countryside Tree Policy

When considering tree work, whether by inspection or complaint, a number of issues are taken into account. The primary driver for work undertaken on trees will always be health and safety. While the Council would always want to be a good neighbour in terms of managing our tree stock, we do not automatically prune to reduce height, for light, satellite reception or to control leaf fall etc.

- All persons employed to undertake tree work shall be suitably trained and qualified and in possession of the appropriate certification.
- All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010.
- Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses, and all adjacent land, are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees.
- As part of site health and safety inspections, we assess and act on any tree related risks.
- Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboricultural management.
- Undertake reactive management of selected trees in parks, green spaces, golf courses, cemeteries and churchyards in response to identified hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.
- Undertake requests for commemorative and other funded tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces to support the renewal of the tree stock, where these requests align with the design of specific parks and green spaces.
- The appropriate Council Officer for each parks and countryside site (usually the Parks, Allotments and Countryside Team Leader for the location) is responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations including tree preservation orders, which would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.
- Before undertaking work, consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc. that are either adjacent to or on the work area. These are to be preserved in good condition and make all necessary arrangement to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the service manager.
- Any work should include, where appropriate, the removal of stumps and subsequent surface reinstatement.
- Stumps intended for permanent retention to be cut at a specified height and left.
- On completion of all work, the work area will be thoroughly cleaned and left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.
- All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work is to be disposed of. The only exception to this shall be woodland locations where the service manager may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site.
- The service manager may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching or creating footpaths and bridleways.
- There is an emergency call out service which provides 24 hours per day, 365 days per year emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs which have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. Incidences of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Appendix 6: Parks and Countryside tree job sheet and specific risk assessment



Parks & Countryside

JOB SHEET AND SITE-SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT					
Site Address Wirral South Mayer Park		Tree Species Various		Inspection by / date I Roberts January 2019 Date Completed	
Height (Metres) (Feet)	0-9 0-30	9-12 30-40	12-15 40-50	15-21 50-70	21-30 70-100
Site Plan Attached/Ref. No.			TPO/Conservation Area		
<p>Work Required</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dismantle & fell dead Cedar Tree (31-40) 2. Cut up and woodchip 3 fallen Willow trees along boundary of the former allotment site 3. Prune Willows and Hazel trees for site lines (footpath between former allotment site) 4. Stump grind 4 tree stumps 					
Risk Assessment Checklist					Relevant (tick)
Operations – Chainsaws, Common Factors					√
Operations – Chainsaw in Tree, Common Factors					√
Operations – Tree Pruning and Felling					√
Operations – Tree Climbing, Common Factors					√
Operations – Ladders					√
Operations – Hand Tools					√
Site Considerations					√
Machinery – Woodchipper , Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP), Stump Grinder, Hand Winch					√
Emergency Contingencies					√
Nearest Hospital and Emergency Unit Arrowe Park Hospital 0151-678-5111					
Client Contact Details: Ian Roberts (Local Team Leader, Bromborough & Bebington)					
Additional Hazards/Equipment Required					

JOB SHEET AND SITE-SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

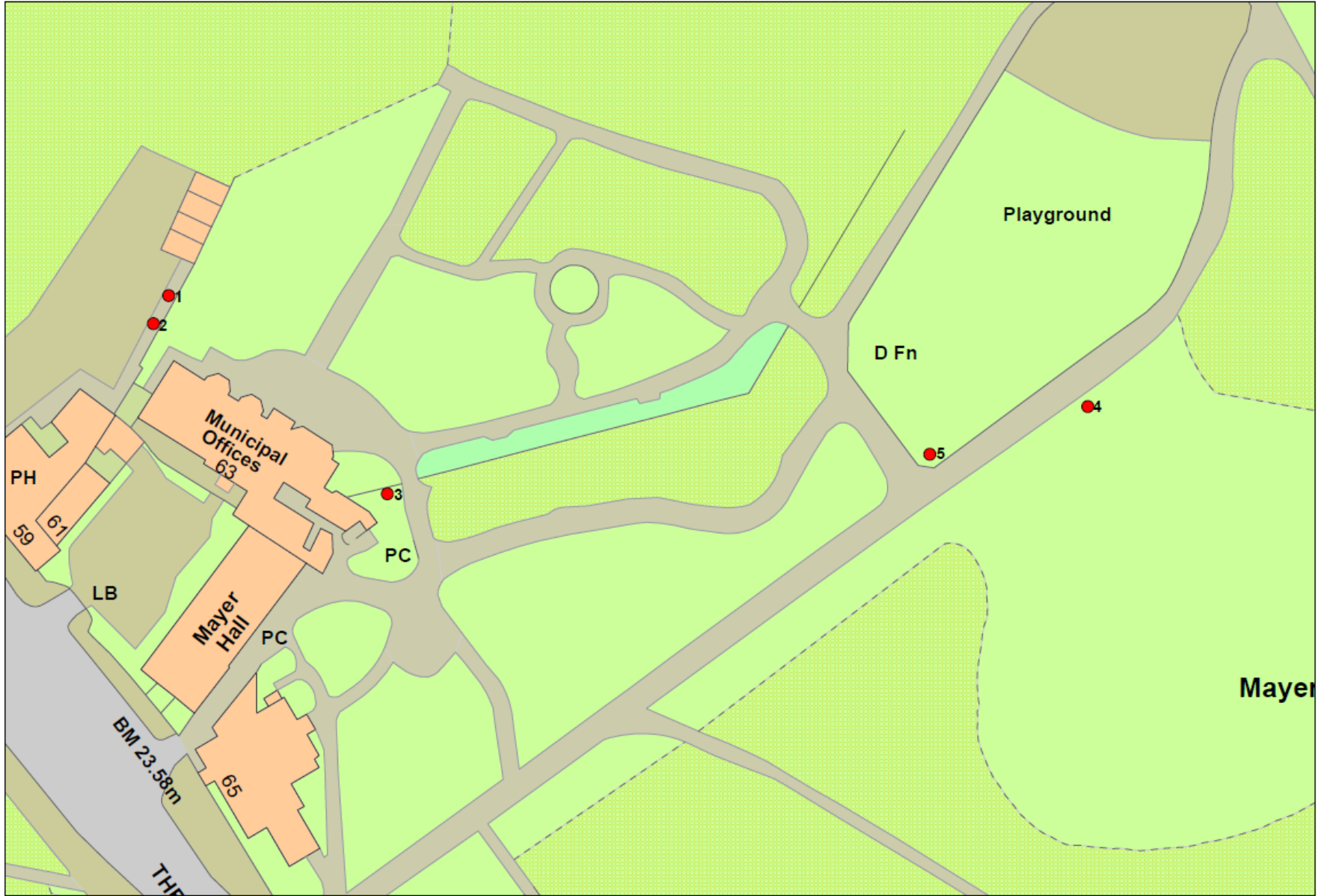


Dead Cedar tree Mayer Park

Appendix 7: Tree Safety Survey

Eastings	Northing	Tree No.	Tag No.	Species	Maturity	Est. Stem Dia.	Est. Height (m)	Avg. Crown Spread	Comments	Recommendations	Priority Timeframe
333252.2	384357.9	1	422	Sycamore	Early-Mature	400x2	14	11	The tree is growing on a linear parcel of land with hardstanding to the north and the remnants of a brick boundary wall to the south. The wall has recently been removed and exposed several roots. Many tree roots are visible as the roots have most likely followed the path of the boundary wall as it well has acted as a barrier to root ingress into the park. The council are proposing to put in a new disabled footpath from the carpark on Village Road to Mayer Park. It will be highly likely that the high levels of root severance will have a negative impact on the trees and result in their premature removal.	The high level of root severance required to install the new footpath will have a negative impact on the trees and will likely result in physiological decline and premature tree loss or could lead to whole tree failure through the loss of structural roots. T2 could be retained if the new footpath is positioned outside of the root protection area. If it not possible to reposition the footpath then T1&T2 should be felled to ground level.	N/A
333250.1	384354	2	423	Sycamore	Semi-Mature	300	11	4	The tree is growing on a linear parcel of land with hardstanding to the north and the remnants of a brick boundary wall to the south. The wall has recently been removed and exposed several roots. Many tree roots are visible as the roots have most likely followed the path of the boundary wall as it well has acted as a barrier to root ingress into the park. The council are proposing to put in a new disabled footpath from the carpark on Village Road to Mayer Park. It will be highly likely that the high levels of root severance will have a negative impact on the trees and result in their premature removal.	The high level of root severance required to install the new footpath will have a negative impact on the trees and will likely result in physiological decline and premature tree loss or could lead to whole tree failure through the loss of structural roots. T2 could be retained if the new footpath is positioned outside of the root protection area. If it not possible to reposition the footpath then T1&T2 should be felled to ground level.	N/A
333283.1	384330	3	424	Lombard poplar	Mature	1000+	19	11	T3 is a notable poplar tree situated adjacent to the public footpath. There is a small longitudinal cavity between the buttress roots on the west side of the tree stem. The cavity was probed to a depth of 0.5m. The tree should be inspected annually by park staff and after gales to force 7+. The tree should be reinspected by an arboriculturists in three years from the date of the initial survey.	The tree should be inspected annually by park staff and after gales to force 7+. The tree should be reinspected by an arboriculturists in 3yrs from the date of the initial survey.	N/A
333381.9	384342.3	4	425	Red Horse chestnut	Early-Mature	450	9	8	Severe canker on stem primary branches. Two partially detached branches are hanging in the mid-crown over the public footpath.	Remove two hanging branches.	Urgent
333359.7	384335.6	5	426	Red Horse chestnut	Mature	450	8	6	There is severe canker on the main tree stem and primary branches. Multiple Ganoderm sp brackets are visible around the base of the tree and on buttress roots. A further bracket is present on the main tree stem at a height of 1.5m above ground level at the point of a large stem canker. The tree is growing within the children's play area.	Fell tree to ground level.	Urgent

333403.8	384400.3	6	427	Red Horse chestnut	Mature	700	9	8	The tree is growing adjacent to the main entrance to the children's play area. The tree has previously been significantly reduced in height. A large branch on the northeast side of the tree at 2.5m above ground level has a large cavity at the point where the branch emanates from the parent stem. It is likely that there is further decay at this point that has affected the main stem however, I was unable to confirm this from a ground inspection. To determine the extent of decay a climbing inspection should be carried out by a qualified arboriculturist.	The decayed branch should be pruned back to the parent stem.	Urgent
333459.3	384302.4	7	428	Horse chestnut	Early-Mature	350	9	5	Major decay of the main tree stem. Primary branch failure has already occurred. The tree is growing next to public footpath.	Fell tree to ground level.	Urgent
333448.7	384232.5	8	429	Oak	Mature	600	14	9	Large/mature oak tree growing on a raised embankment. The tree is part of a linear group. There is an open cavity on the west side of the stem at a height of 1.5m above ground level. Cubicle rot was visible within the cavity.	Reinspect the tree within 3yrs.	N/A
333444.1	384230.4	9	430	Cherry	Mature	700	9	7	The tree is part of a linear group. Several small Ganoderma sp brackets are visible at the base of the tree predominantly on the north side of the stem. There is a large wound on the stem that is associated with the canker that has infected the tree.	Reinspect the tree within 3yrs.	N/A
333410.6	384192.3	10	431	Cherry	Mature		7	5	Major deadwood is visible in the upper crown and a snapped hanging branch.	Remove all deadwood above 25mm in diameter and remove the hanging branch.	High
333431.9	384172.4	11	432	Holm oak	Mature	400X2	14	10	Four snapped branches are hanging within the crown most probably associated with the failure of an adjacent poplar tree.	Remove the four hanging branches.	High
333447.8	384163.6	12	433	Lombard poplar	Mature	900	26	9	T12 is a large Lombardy poplar tree situated close to a block of residential flats. The tree has been heavily reduced at some point in its history (10yrs+) and now mature regrowth is emanating from the reduction points.	Reduce the entire crown back to the previous reduction points at an approximate height of 11m above ground level. All growth below 11m should be retained.	High
333472	384130.5	13	435	Oak	Semi-Mature	300	13	9	Snapped branch in upper crown over. The branch is approximately 5m long and 100mm in diameter and is hanging over the public footpath.	Remove the hanging branch.	Urgent
333458.2	384142.5	G1	434	Hawthorn	Mature	250	8	4	The trees are exhibiting multiple defects including decay of the primary stem and fruiting bodies around the base of the tree. All trees are showing visual signs of branch decline.	The trees should be felled to ground level.	High





Appendix 8: Wirral Parks and Countryside Service – Sustainability


WIRRAL PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE TEAM
WIRRAL PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE — SUSTAINABILITY

Aim: Wirral Parks & Countryside teams putting sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery.

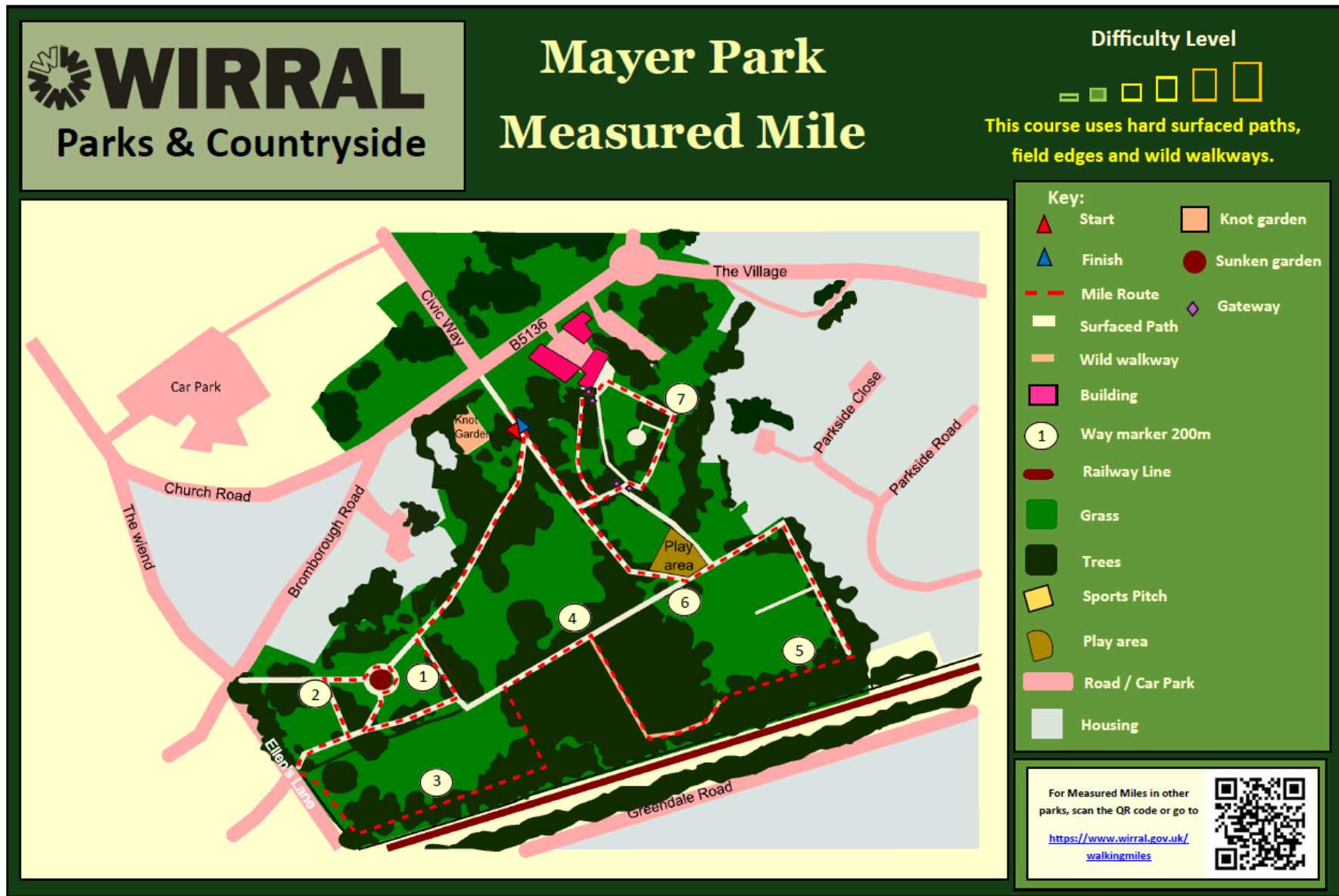
Key Commitments:

In all our activities, We will :

- **Improve our sustainable performance** review, annually report, and continually improve our sustainability performance , including progressing on carbon reduction.
- **Comply with environmental legislation,** regulations and relevant codes of practise.
- **Purchase sustainability.** Select and promote goods and services , using purchasing criteria which balance economic, social and environmental factors, requiring our suppliers to address similar issues.
- **Use Natural resources sustainably.** Implement an efficiency programme to reduce energy and water demand and promote and install low carbon technologies in our buildings/ other constructions where possible, requiring contractors to address similar issues e.g. supplier miles, procurement, local labour etc.
- **Travel sustainably .** Encourage sustainable travel by staff, service users, contractors, residents and visitors.
- **Minimise waste.** Reduce, re-use and recycle resources, as far as is practicable, and ensure responsible disposal of all its residual waste.
- **Manage land sustainability.** Protect , conserve and enhance our natural and built environment, safeguarding heritage , enhancing habitats and biodiversity and the amenity value of the parks and countryside.
- **Raise awareness** of this policy and related sustainability issues amongst employees , contractors, service users, residents and visitors.
- **Work In partnership** with other organisations to promote wider responsibility towards sustainability, highlight best practice, share information and encourage joint working.

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Appendix 9: Mayer Park Measured Mi



Welcome to Mayer Park

Measured Mile

What is a measured mile?

These routes are measured routes, of approximately one mile in length. You can use this route for walking, jogging, running and generally being active.

The route is a flexible way to build towards your weekly 150 active minutes (or 2.5 hours) as well as enjoying our parks all year round.

Please be aware this course goes off the solid surface paths onto our wild walkways, they maybe uneven and or muddy underfoot. We advise you wear appropriate footwear with decent ankle support.

How do I know I am doing it at the right level?

We all walk and exercise at different speeds. If you are walking and feel comfortable to talk, but it is a challenge to sing the words of a song. Then you are exercising at the correct level!

How do I join in?

Just download your chosen map from:

www.wirral.gov.uk/walkingmiles

Directions

▲ Start : On the pathway in line with the 'Knot Garden' facing away from Church Road between the two memorial stones. Walk forward take the first path on the right hand side. Follow this path and take the next left to just before the next right turn.

- 1 200m** — Take this right turn. Then take the next right turn back towards the sunken garden. Turn right around the sunken rose garden walking the long way around it and take the second exit. Follow this path and then take the next left turn.
- 2 400m** — Continue to the end of the path then turn right, then next left and exit the park through the gateway. Immediately re-enter the lower park onto the field. Follow the fence line turning left through the trees parallel to the railway line. After 50m you have walked 600m.
- 3 600m** — Follow the field boundary turning left along the woodland edge until you reach the path. Then turn right along the path until you reach the wild walkway on the left.
- 4 Congratulations you have walked half a mile.** Take the wild walkway and follow the path until it reaches a T junction. Take the left hand fork and follow it out of the woods onto the field under the trees. Carry on and after 50m you have now walked 1km.
- 5 1000m** — Continue along the field edge until you reach the path leading left up the park boundary towards some small cottages. As you reach the cottages turn left and follow the path taking the second right turn just past the play area.
- 6 1200m** — Follow the path, turn first right following the fence line, then through the old stone gateway. Turn right at the T junction and follow the path taking the 2nd left into the Yew Tree arch.
- 7 1400m** — The final leg, you are nearly there. Keep following the path through the yew archway until you reach the building. Turn left. Then take the second left turn. Follow the path taking the next right and immediately right again.

- 7** Follow the path up towards the main gate and rose garden. Once in line with the memorial stones you have completed your Measured Mile. ▼

**Congratulations
You have now
completed the
Mayer Park
Measured Mile!!**

**Congratulations, you
have walked a
measured mile!! Each
mile is 1600 m or 1.6
km.**



WIRRAL

Appendix 10 – Grass Maintenance Schedule



Alternative Model to General Grass Maintenance

Site	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Amenity Open spaces	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance
Sports pitches	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance
General grass area in parks	No Cuts	Two cuts One at the end of April	No Mow May*	Two Cuts** One at the Start of June	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut
Bowling Greens	Spring Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Winter Maintenance
Formal Areas***	One cut	Fortnightly	One Cut (end of the month)	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly
P.O.S	No Cuts	Two cuts One at the end of April	No Mow May*	Two Cuts One at the Start of June	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut

Frequency of grass maintenance will be reduced from 10 cuts per year to 8 cuts per year on all general grass areas in parks and public open spaces. Additional areas will also be identified for rewilding and tree planting.

*No Mow May is a nationally adopted idea to leave areas uncut in May to help pollinator species. [See more details here](#)

** General Grass Areas will be left uncut until start of June.

***Formal areas are classified as areas the teams would normally cut on a weekly basis i.e. Hamilton Square

End of Document